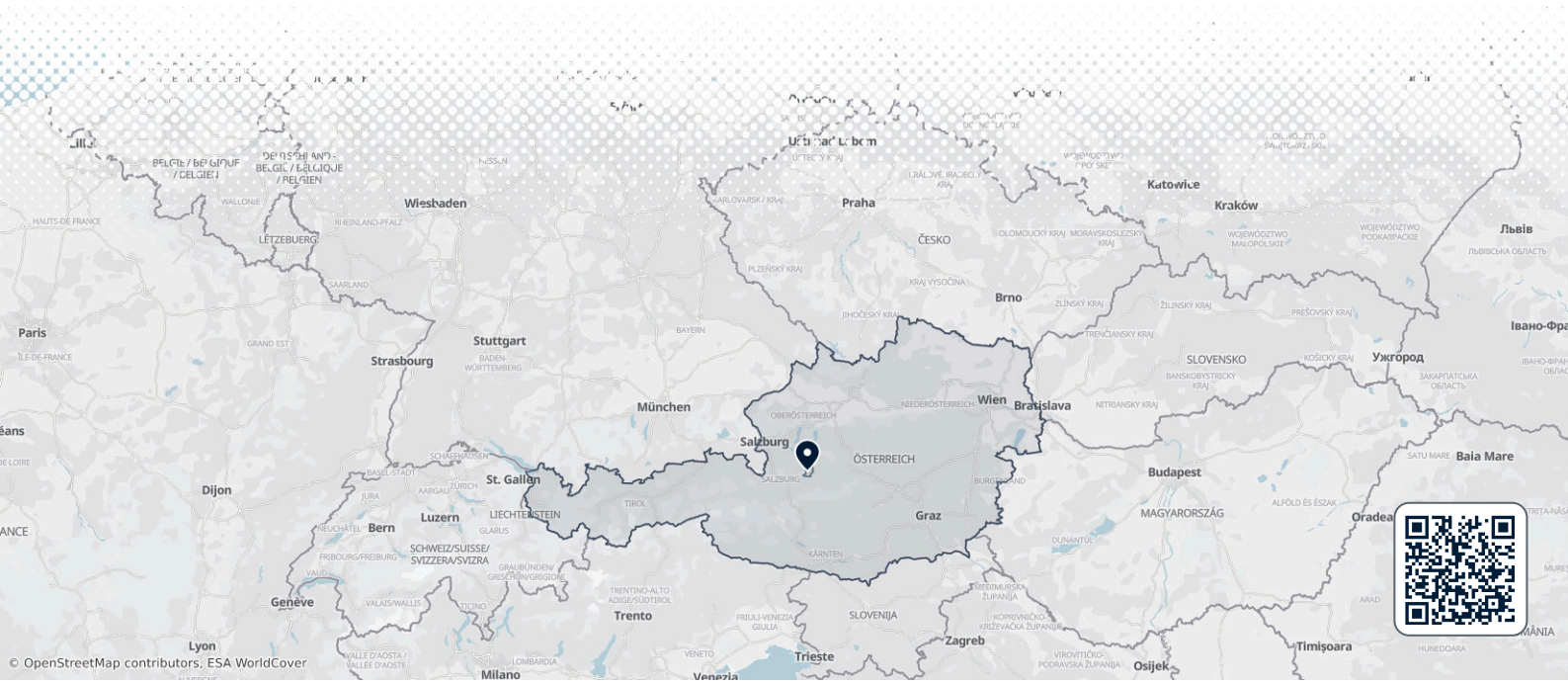


Obertraun

Salzkammergut · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Obertraun is a small village at the southern end of Lake Hallstatt, at the foot of the Dachstein. It is the base for the Dachstein cable car and for two of the largest show caves in the Alps. The area is part of the Hallstatt–Dachstein UNESCO World Heritage region.

It is a quiet place, with a lakeside path and a train station on the lake. In summer and winter it opens onto the high plateau above.

When to visit

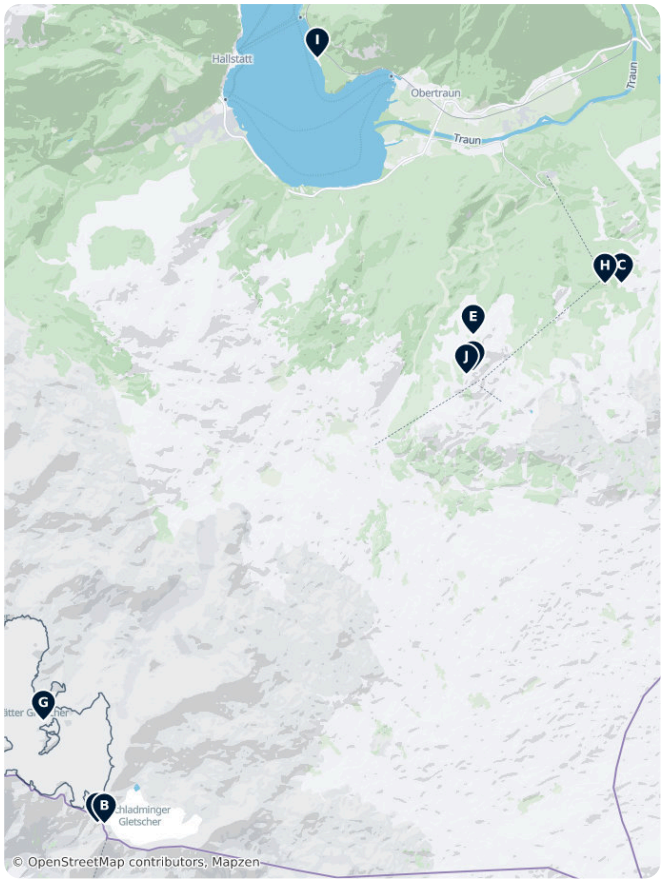
May to October is best for the cable car, caves and hikes. The caves are open from spring and have guided tours. Winter has skiing and snow on the plateau. Some mountain paths are closed in winter.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-4° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 18°	1° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	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	23° / 30°	13° / 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	20° / 27°	11° / 5°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	16° / 23°	7° / 0°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 18°	2° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for skiing	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 Krippenstein is the upper cable car station, with views, huts and trails.
- B Dachstein Ice Cave is a huge ice cave with frozen formations, reached on guided tours.
- C Rieseneishöhle is the entrance to the Giant Ice Cave and the Dachstein Mammoth Cave nearby, with guided tours.
- D Eispalast is a section of the ice cave system.
- E 5 Fingers is a steel viewing platform over the Hallstatt valley.
- F Treppe ins Nichts is a glass-floored viewpoint on the Dachstein plateau, known as the stairs into nothing.
- G Hallstätter Gletscher is a glacier near the high plateau.
- H Höhlenmuseum explains the history of cave research.
- I Schloss Grub is a manor house in the village.
- J Krippensteinkapelle is a small mountain chapel.



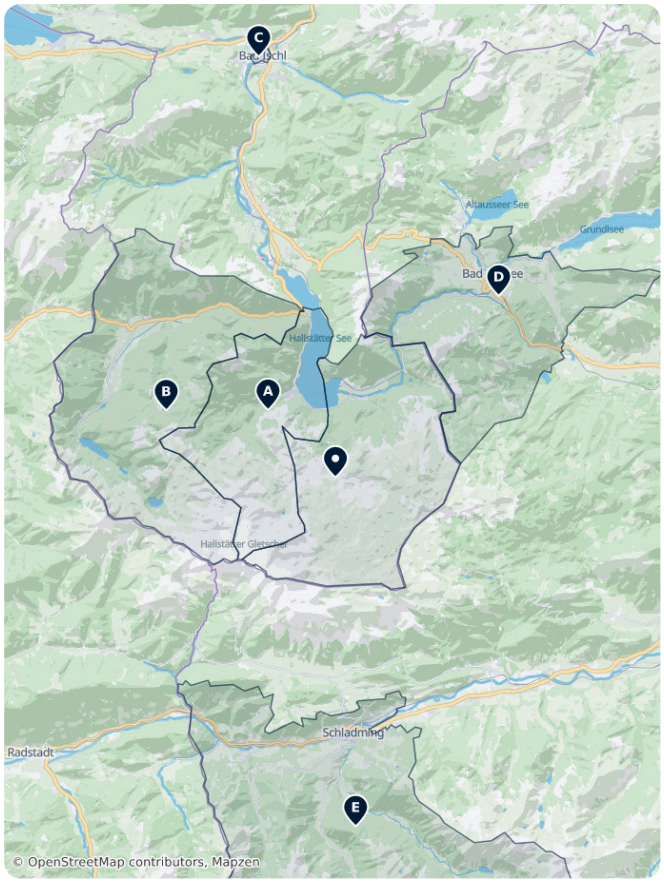
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What to experience

- Take a guided ice cave tour.
- Ride the cable car to the plateau.
- Walk to a viewpoint on the plateau.
- Cycle or walk the lake path to Hallstatt.
- Ski the Dachstein slopes in winter.

Day trips

- A Hallstatt is about 10 minutes away by car or 25 minutes by boat from the station.
- B Gosau is about 40 minutes away by car.
- C Bad Ischl is about 35 minutes away by car.
- D Bad Aussee is about 30 minutes away by car.
- E Schladming is about 1 hour away by car.



Where to explore

- Hallstatt is the next village on the lake, and Gosau and Bad Ischl are close by.

Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is about 1 hour 30 minutes away by car.
- By train: Obertraun-Dachsteinhöhlen station is on the Salzkammergut line. Trains from Attnang-Puchheim take about 2 hours. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: The road runs from Bad Ischl through Bad Goisern.

Getting around

The village is small. Local buses run to the cable car base and nearby villages. The lake path leads to Hallstatt.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village is small, and caves and viewpoints are above it by cable car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A lakeside cycle path leads to Hallstatt, and the mountain roads are steep.

Driving

A car is helpful but not essential. Parking is available at the cable car station. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Mountain huts serve warm soups, dumplings and cakes. Lake fish and *Kaiserschmarrn* are common in village inns.

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

Obertraun is very safe. Caves are cold, so bring a warm jacket and sturdy shoes. High plateau paths 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

The caves were explored in the 19th and 20th centuries and opened to visitors in the early 1900s. The Dachstein cable car opened in 1950. The village lies in a landscape with traces of salt mining and settlement from the Bronze Age, which earned UNESCO status in 1997.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

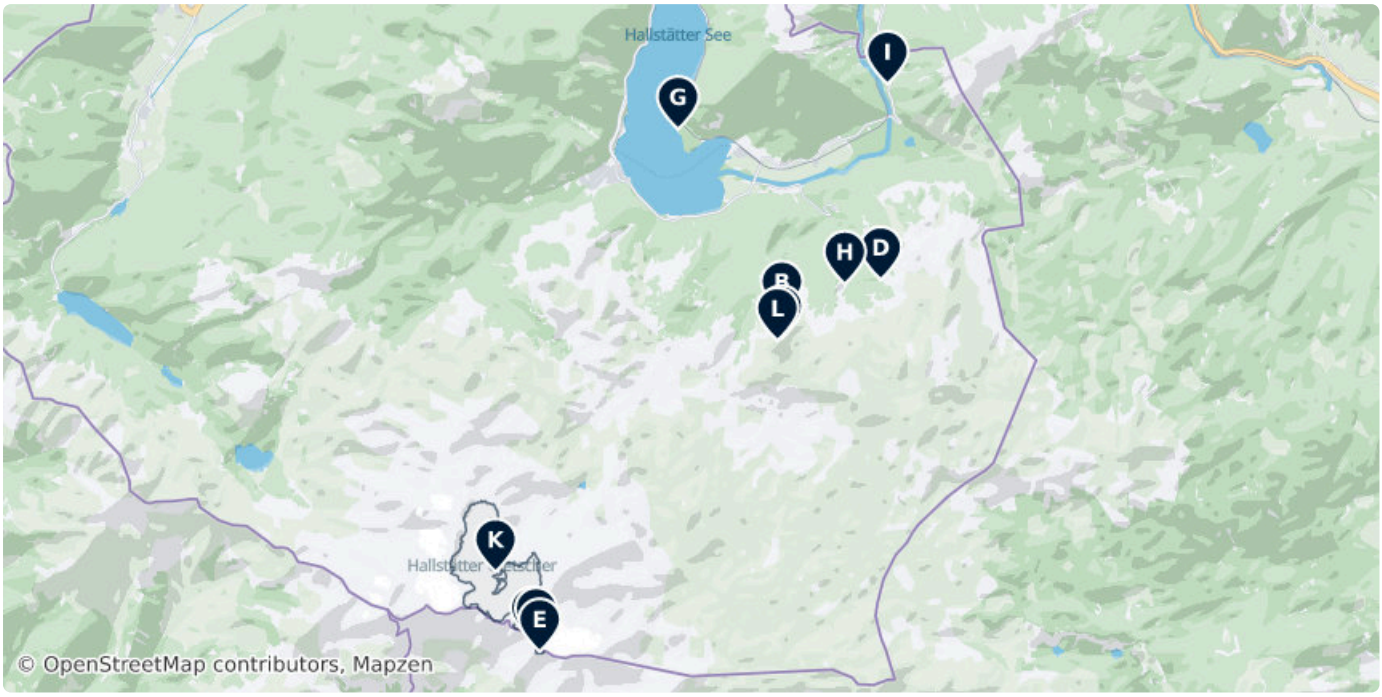
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Obertraun Essentials

Obertraun serves as the primary access point for the Dachstein Krippenstein region and its diverse geological features. This selection includes the world-famous Giant Ice Cave and the extensive Mammoth Cave system, alongside high-altitude viewpoints like the 5 Fingers and the Skywalk. The list also covers the Hallstätter Glacier, the largest in the Dachstein range, and historic landmarks such as the lakeside Schloss Grub and the memorial chapel on Mount Krippenstein.





A Stairway to Nothingness

The bridge features a construction which is also called "stairway to nothingness". Breathtaking views are guaranteed.

8972, Austria (47.46929, 13.62448)



B 5 Fingers

5 Fingers is a free viewing platform in the Dachstein Mountains of Upper Austria, on Mount Krippenstein.

(Unnamed Road), 4831, Austria (47.52864, 13.69204)



C Dachstein Ice Cave

This ice cave is rebuilt every year and showcases nicely lit ice sculptures as well as thick layers of the glacier itself.

Hunerkogellift, Obertraun 4831, Austria (47.46919, 13.62575)



D Dachstein Ice Cave

A must see of the region. Visiting this fairy-tale like ice cave is a real adventure.

4831, Austria (47.53490, 13.71871)

dachstein-salzkammergut.com

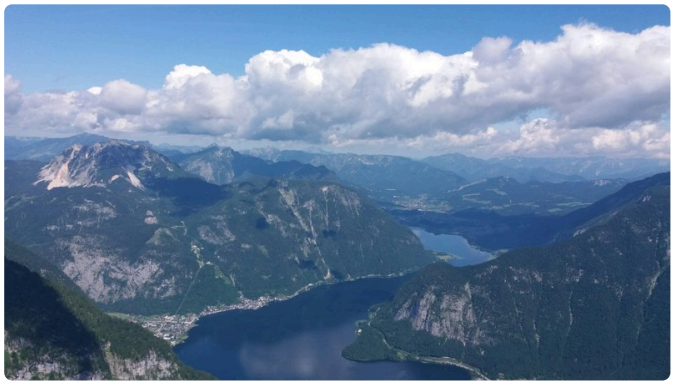


E Skywalk

A viewing platform located at the Dachstein Glacier cable car station, positioned over a 250-meter vertical drop with views across the Alps.

8972, Austria (47.46718, 13.62670)

derdachstein.at/de/dachstein-gletscherwelt/gletscher-erl...



F Krippenstein

A 2,108-meter peak on the northern edge of the Dachstein Mountains, serving as a hub for hiking trails and high-altitude viewing platforms.

4831, Austria (47.52422, 13.69200)



G Schloss Grub

A 16th-century castle situated on the eastern shore of Lake Hallstatt. This privately owned residence is a prominent landmark along the lakeside hiking trail.

Ostuferwanderweg, 4831 Obertraun, Austria (47.56226, 13.66402)

H Dachstein Mammut Höhle - Neuer Osteingang

One of the longest karst caves in Europe, featuring over 70 kilometers of explored passages. Guided tours highlight its immense subterranean dimensions.

4831, Austria (47.53412, 13.70904)

dachstein-salzkammergut.com/sommer/unterirdisch/ma...

I Koppenbrüllerhöhle

An active water cave located in the valley, known for its roaring subterranean streams and limestone dripstone formations.

Obertraun, 4831, Austria (47.57048, 13.72053)

Mo–Su	09:00–16:00

dachstein-salzkammergut.com/sommer/unterirdisch/kop...



J Ice Palace

An attraction carved directly into the Dachstein Glacier, featuring ice sculptures, light installations, and a crystal cathedral located deep beneath the ice surface.

4831, Austria (47.46938, 13.62498)



K Hallstätter Glacier

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

4830, Austria (47.48172, 13.61478)



L Krippensteinkapelle

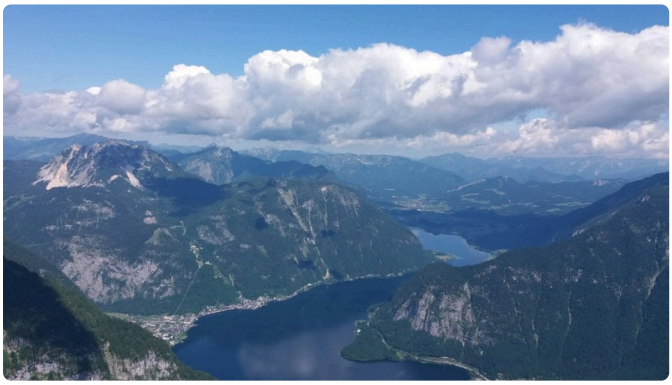
A memorial chapel built in 1959 on Mount Krippenstein to commemorate the students and teachers lost in the 1954 Heilbronn Dachstein tragedy.

(Unnamed Road), 4831, Austria (47.52382, 13.69085)

Alpine Peaks & Summits

The Dachstein Mountains in Upper Austria feature a collection of high-altitude limestone summits ranging from the accessible Krippenstein at 2,108 meters to technical peaks exceeding 2,700 meters. This selection includes the Hunerkogel, home to the Dachstein Skywalk, and the Gjaidstein peaks, which offer expansive views across the Hallstätter Glacier. These summits are central to the region's UNESCO World Heritage landscape, providing geological insights into the Northern Limestone Alps.





A Krippenstein

Standing at 2,108 meters on the northern edge of the Dachstein Mountains, this summit features the Five Fingers viewing platform and serves as the mountain station for the Dachstein Krippenstein cable car.

4831, Austria (47.52422, 13.69200)



B Taubenkogel

The Taubenkogel is a 2,301-metre high peak in the Dachstein Mountains of Upper Austria, northeast of the Hallstätter Glacier.

4830, Austria (47.50410, 13.64758)

C Landfriedstein

A 2,536-meter-high mountain peak located within the Dachstein massif, situated directly north of Ramsau am Dachstein.

4831, Austria (47.46270, 13.66766)

D Hunerkogel

At 2,687 meters, this peak houses the mountain station for the Dachstein Südwandbahn cable car and the Dachstein Skywalk, a glass-bottomed viewing platform.

4831, Austria (47.46809, 13.62611)

E Hoher Gjaidstein

Reaching an elevation of 2,794 meters, this summit is located northeast of the Hunerkogel and provides views of the Hallstätter Glacier.

4830, Austria (47.48179, 13.63228)

F Dachsteinwarte

A 2,741-meter peak situated near the Seethalerhütte, marking a prominent point on the ridge between the Hallstätter and Schladminger Glaciers.

8972, Austria (47.47338, 13.61252)

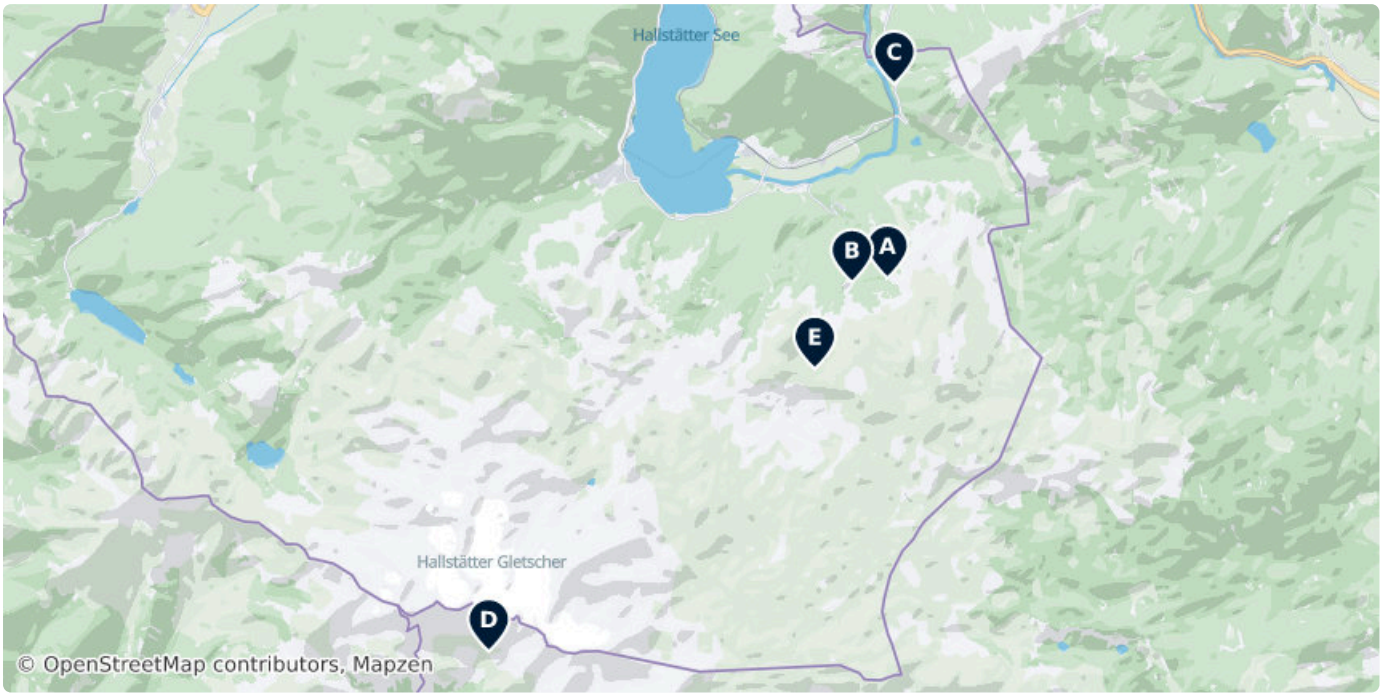
G Vorderer Gjaidstein

Part of the Gjaidstein massif, this 2,414-meter peak sits between the Krippenstein and the higher Hoher Gjaidstein, overlooking the karst landscape of the Dachstein plateau.

4831, Austria (47.49349, 13.65052)

Caves and Underground Wonders

The Dachstein massif houses a diverse network of subterranean systems, from the massive limestone galleries of the Mammut Cave to the frozen sculptures within the Giant Ice Cave. This collection includes the Koppenbrüllerhöhle, an active spring cave in the valley, and high-altitude sites like the Südwandhöhle. These caves offer insight into Alpine geology, featuring over 70 kilometers of explored tunnels, ancient underground riverbeds, and unique ice formations shaped by specific climatic conditions within the mountain.





A Dachstein Ice Cave

A must see of the region. Visiting this fairy-tale like ice cave is a real adventure.

4831, Austria (47.53490, 13.71871)

dachstein-salzkammergut.com

B Dachstein Mammut Höhle - Neuer Osteingang

One of Europe's largest karst caves, containing over 70 kilometers of explored passages. It is characterized by massive, pipe-like galleries formed by ancient subterranean rivers.

4831, Austria (47.53412, 13.70904)

dachstein-salzkammergut.com/sommer/unterirdisch/ma...

C Koppenbrüllerhöhle

An active water cave located on the valley floor. It features impressive stalactites and rushing subterranean streams that serve as a natural drainage system for the Dachstein plateau.

Obertraun, 4831, Austria (47.57048, 13.72053)

Mo–Su 09:00–16:00

dachstein-salzkammergut.com/sommer/unterirdisch/kop...

D Südwandhöhle

A cave situated at the base of the Dachstein south wall, known to explorers since 1886.

8972, Austria (47.46636, 13.61037)

E Krippensteineishöhle

A high-altitude cave on the Krippenstein plateau featuring seasonal ice formations and karst geological features.

(47.51821, 13.69897)

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