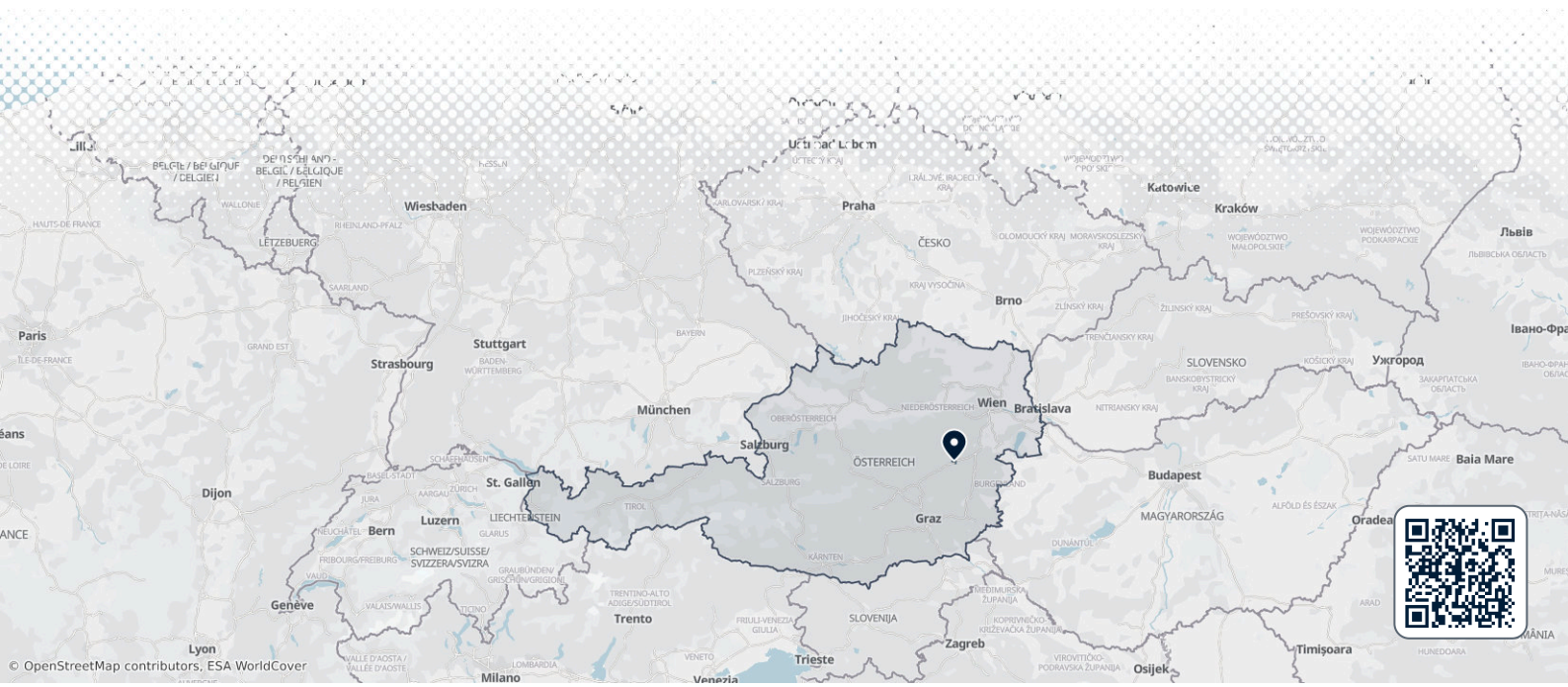


Semmering

Lower Austria · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Semmering is a small mountain resort on a pass between Lower Austria and Styria, about 100 km south of Vienna. It became a retreat for Viennese society in the 19th century, after the railway opened, and grand villas and hotels still line the slope.

The Semmering railway, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the main reason to visit. The area also has forest walks, small ski slopes and views towards the Rax and Schneeberg mountains.

When to visit

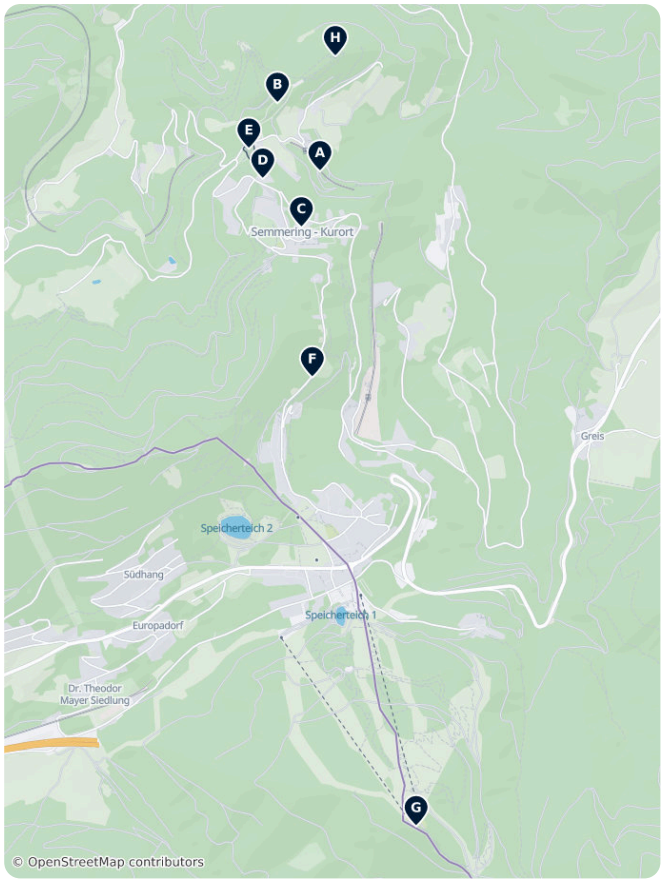
May to October is best for walking and for train journeys on the line. Autumn colour is good in the forest. Winter brings snow and skiing on the Hirschenkogel. The pass can be cool and foggy, even when Vienna is sunny.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-1° / 6° Feels like -6°	-8° / -16°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	1° / 9° Feels like -4°	-7° / -15°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	5° / 14° Feels like 1°	-4° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	0° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 22°	5° / -1°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 3°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	10° / 6°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	10° / 5°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	16° / 22°	6° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 19°	2° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 1°	-2° / -9°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	0° / 6° Feels like -5°	-6° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Semmeringbahn is the mountain railway, built in the 1850s, with viaducts and tunnels, and it still carries trains.
- B Kurhaus Semmering is a historic building in the resort centre.
- C Park-Villa Maxi Böhm and D Pollerosshaus are examples of the villa architecture.
- E Kunst+Technik Skulpturenpark is a sculpture park with art and technology.
- F Hochstraßenmuseum is a museum on the old pass road.
- G Hirschenkogel is the local mountain, with a ski area and a hiking route.
- H Doppelreiterwarte is a lookout tower on the hills above.
- The parish church of the Holy Family stands in the village.



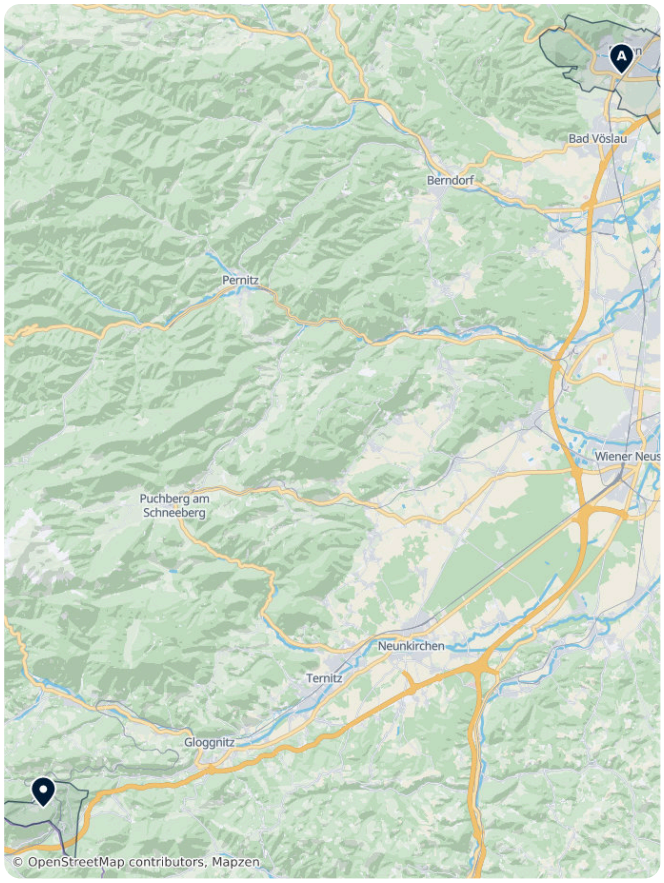
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What to experience

- Ride a train over the Semmering line.
- Walk the railway trail.
- Hike to a lookout tower.
- Ski on the Hirschenkogel.
- Look at the Belle Époque villas.

Day trips

- Payerbach and the Rax cable car are about 25 minutes away by car.
- Mürzzuschlag in Styria is about 20 minutes away by car.
- Neunkirchen and Wiener Neustadt are about 35 to 45 minutes away by car.
- A Baden bei Wien is about 1 hour away by car.
- Vienna is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car.



Getting there

- By air: Vienna Airport is about 1 hour 30 minutes away by car.
- By train: Direct trains from Vienna run on the Southern line and take about 1 hour 20 minutes. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: Take the S6 Semmering expressway, or the old pass road for the scenic route.

Getting around

The resort is small. Walking is the main way to move around, and slopes can be steep. A car or taxi helps for hotels at the edges. Regional trains link the pass villages.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The resort is small and hilly, with villas and trails spread along the slope.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Roads and forest tracks climb steadily, so cycling suits fit riders.

Driving

A car helps for the mountains. The pass can be foggy or icy in winter. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways and expressways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Lower Austrian and Styrian food includes *Wiener Schnitzel*, *Knödel*, dumplings, and *Palatschinken*, thin pancakes. Look for game and local mountain cheese. Hotels serve traditional coffee house 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

Semmering is very safe. Watch the weather on mountain walks. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

The pass was a trade route for centuries. Carl von Ghega built the Semmering railway between 1848 and 1854, the first great mountain railway in Europe, and the line opened the area to visitors. Viennese families built villas and hotels, and the resort flourished before the First World War. Today the railway, the villas and the forest are the main attractions.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

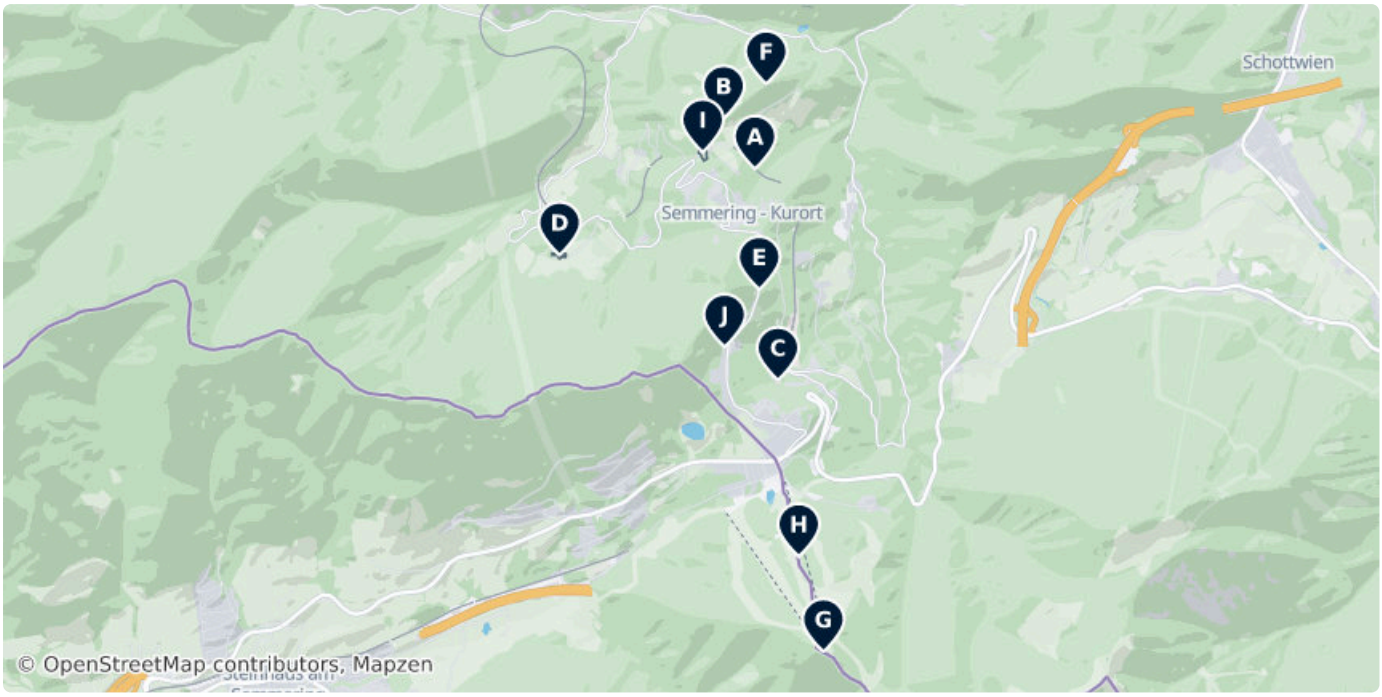
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Best of Semmering

The UNESCO-listed Semmering Railway, belle-époque resort villas, lookout towers and mountain outdoor fun around Austria's classic alpine retreat.





A Semmering railway

The world's first mountain railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with viaducts and tunnels across the Semmering pass.

Schulweg, 2680, Austria (47.64878, 15.82797)



B Kurhaus Semmering

Historic spa-era Kurhaus recalling Semmering's belle-époque heyday as a Viennese retreat.

(47.65155, 15.82541)

C Villa Bündsdorf

One of the resort's heritage villas from the golden age of Semmering.

(47.63714, 15.82986)

D Ehem. Meierei des Südbahnhotels

Former dairy farm of the grand Südbahnhotel, a relic of the resort's grand era.

(47.64404, 15.81199)

E Hochstraßenmuseum

Free museum on the history of the Semmering pass road and its travellers.

(47.64214, 15.82832)

Mo–Su

Open 24/7

F Doppelreiterwarte

Lookout tower with views over the Semmering hills and the railway landscape.

2680, Austria (47.65345, 15.82890)

G Millenniumswarte

Observation tower offering panoramas across the Semmering region.

2680, Austria (47.62218, 15.83357)



H Semmering Ski Resort

Family-friendly ski area on the Hirschenkogel, the local winter sports hub.

(Unnamed Road), 2680, Austria (47.62742, 15.83156)

semmering.com/page/winter



I Kunst+Technik Skulpturenpark

Open-air sculpture park combining art and technology.

1 Am Wolfsbergkogel, 2680, Austria (47.64970, 15.82369)

skulpturenparksemmering.at



J Hl. Familie

The village church of the Holy Family in the centre of Semmering.

(47.63897, 15.82550)

DATA SOURCES

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