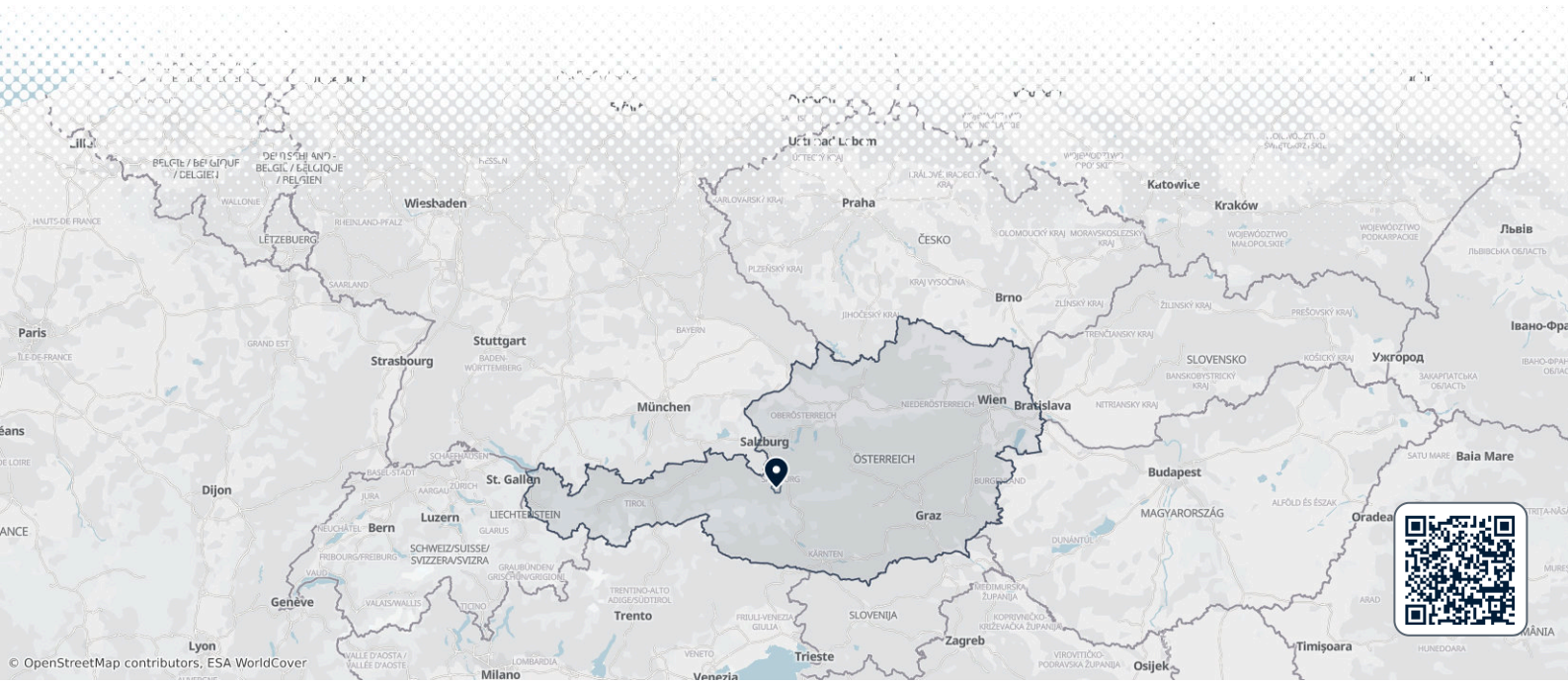


St Johann im Pongau

Salzburg · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

St Johann im Pongau is a small town and the main hub of the Pongau region in Salzburg province. It sits in the Salzach valley, on the main railway and motorway lines, with ski areas, gorges and hills close by.

The town is more of a service centre than a resort, but it has real appeal: a landmark church, one of Austria's best-known gorges on its doorstep and easy links to Ski amadé and the Hochkönig.

When to visit

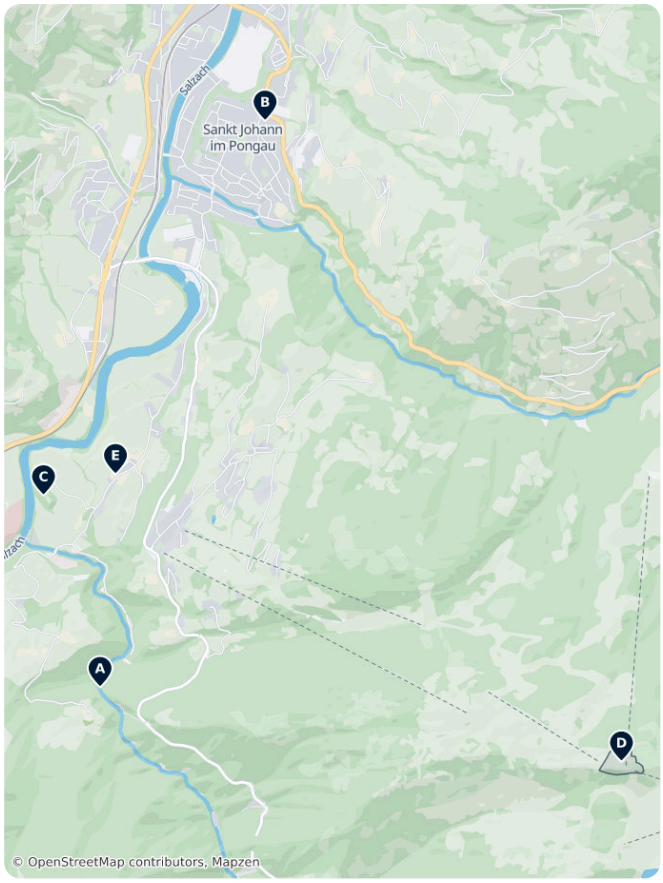
The Liechtensteinklamm is open roughly April to October. June to September is best for hiking and cycling. December to March is ski season in nearby resorts. Spring and autumn are quiet.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-4° / -14°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 18°	0° / -8°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23°	4° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	19° / 26°	9° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for cycling	23° / 31°	13° / 7°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Poor Poor for cycling	24° / 32°	14° / 9°	22 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for cycling	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	20° / 28°	10° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 24°	6° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	2° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	5° / 11° Feels like 1°	-3° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Liechtensteinklamm is a deep, narrow gorge with wooden walkways, a waterfall and a walk of about 1 hour.
- B Pfarrkirche St. Johann is a large Neo-Gothic church that locals call the Cathedral in the Mountains.
- C Burg Plankenau is a castle ruin on a hill near the gorge.
- D Geisterberg is a themed family trail above the town.
- E Lerch Streichelzoo is a small petting zoo.
- The old town centre has cafes and shops.



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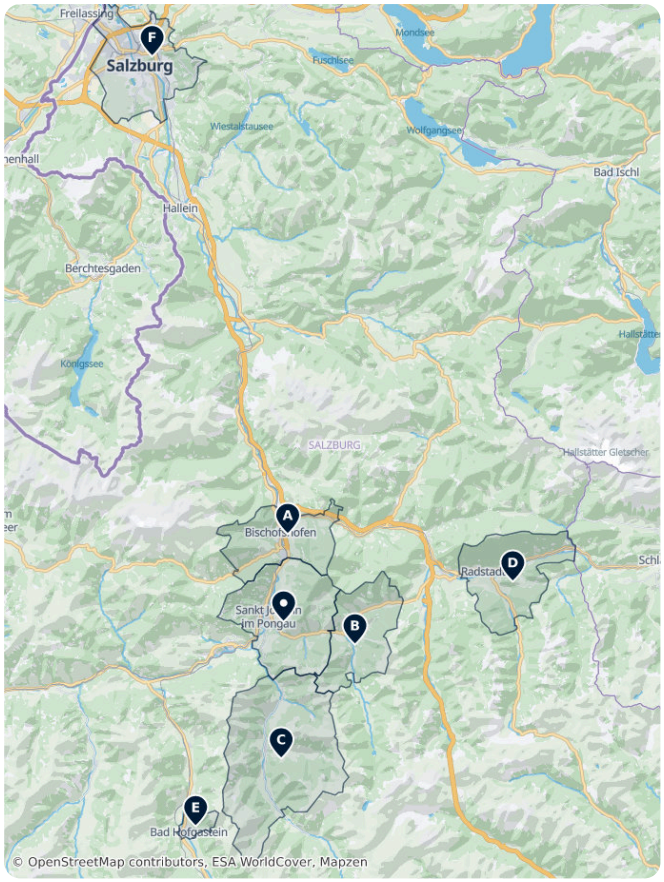
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What to experience

- Walk the Liechtensteinklamm.
- Visit the cathedral-like church.
- Cycle the Salzach path.
- Ski in a nearby resort.
- Visit Werfen on a day trip.

Day trips

- A Bischofshofen is about 10 minutes away by car or train.
- B Wagrain is about 15 minutes away by car.
- C Großarl is about 20 minutes away by car.
- D Radstadt is about 25 minutes away by car.
- E Bad Hofgastein is about 30 minutes away by car.
- F Salzburg is about 50 minutes away by car.
- Werfen with Hohenwerfen Castle and the Eisriesenwelt ice cave is about 20 minutes away by car.



Where to explore

- Bischofshofen, Wagrain and Großarl are the nearest preferred destinations.

Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is about 50 minutes away by car.
- By train: St Johann im Pongau is on the Salzburg–Villach line, with trains from Salzburg in about 50 minutes. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: Leave the A10 motorway at St Johann.

Getting around

The centre is walkable. A shuttle bus runs to the gorge, and local buses link the villages. Cycling is easy along the Salzach.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town centre is compact and flat, with the station close by.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The Salzach Cycle Path runs through the town, and quiet roads lead into the side valleys.

Driving

The A10 motorway runs past the town, with toll tunnels to the south. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Salzburg-region food includes *Kasnocken*, cheese dumplings, and *Salzburger Nockerl*, a sweet souffle. Local inns serve hearty dishes. Huts serve butter and cheese in summer.

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

St Johann is very safe. The gorge walkway can be slippery. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

The town grew on the Salzach route and was a stop for the salt and ore trade. Protestant farmers left the area in 1731–32 under the Salzburg expulsion. The large Neo-Gothic church was built in the 19th century, and the gorge was opened to visitors in 1875.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

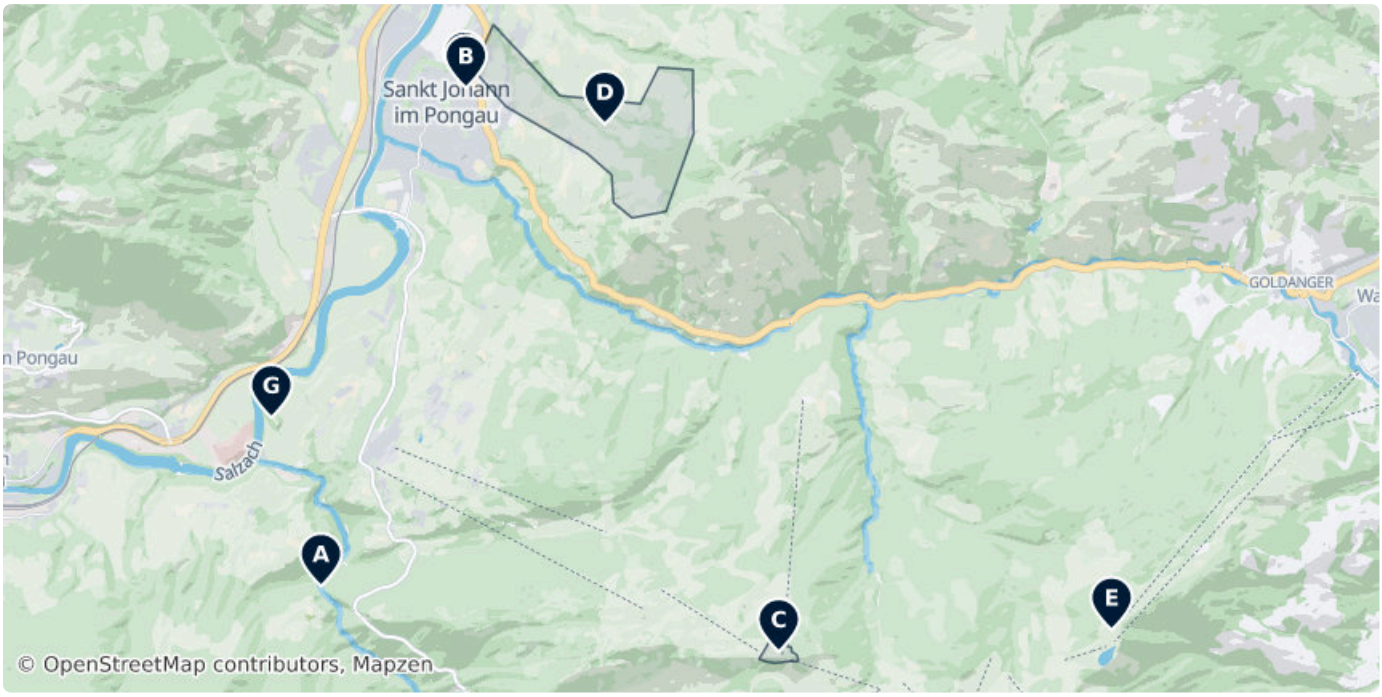
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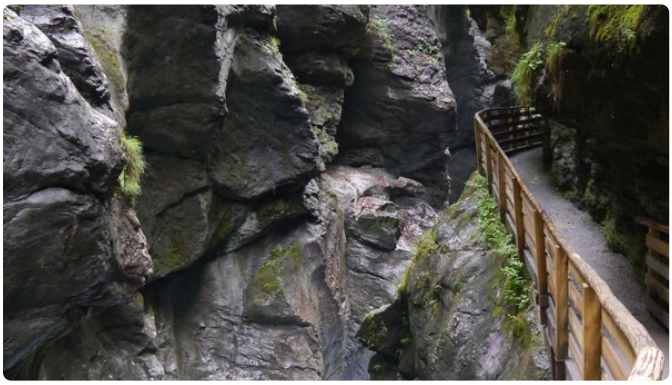
LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

St Johann im Pongau Essentials

St Johann im Pongau serves as a central hub in the Salzburg Alps, defined by the twin-towered Neo-Gothic 'Pongau Cathedral' and the dramatic Liechtensteinklamm, a gorge with 300-meter-high walls and a spiral staircase. The area features extensive mountain adventure parks like Geisterberg and WAGRAINi's Grafenberg, accessible via cable car. As a key segment of the Ski Amadé network, it provides direct access to high-altitude winter sports and interconnected hiking trails.





A Liechtenstein Gorge

Liechtensteinklamm is a gorge with walls up to 300m high, located in the Austrian Alps 50 km south of Salzburg.

Alpendorfstraße, 5600 Sankt Johann im Pongau, Austria (47.31276, 13.18927)

liechtensteinklamm.info



B Pfarrkirche St. Johann

A Neo-Gothic Roman Catholic parish church known as the 'Pongau Cathedral.' The current structure, featuring prominent twin towers, was rebuilt in 1855 after a fire destroyed much of the town.

6 Leo-Neumayer-Straße, Saint Johann im Pongau 5600, Austria (47.34867, 13.20469)



C Geisterberg

An alpine adventure park situated on the Gernkogel mountain. Accessible via the Alpendorf gondola, it contains over 40 interactive play stations, including climbing towers, water games, and themed hiking paths.

5600, Austria (47.30803, 13.23800)



D St. Johann im Pongau

A major winter sports destination within the Snow Space Salzburg and Ski Amadé networks. It offers groomed downhill runs, modern lift systems, and access to cross-country skiing trails.

(Unnamed Road), 5600, Austria (47.34608, 13.21950)

salzburgersportwelt.com/de/orte/stjohann-alpendorf.html



E WAGRAINi's Grafenberg

This "Natural Mountain World" will take you for a themed walk with entertaining stations where you will always learn something new.

Markt 59, 5602 Wagrain, Austria (47.30959, 13.27344)

wagraini.info/en/wagrainis_grafenberg/... , +43 6413 82380



F Evang. Annakapelle

A historic, heritage-listed Protestant chapel located in the center of the municipality.

(47.34897, 13.20451)



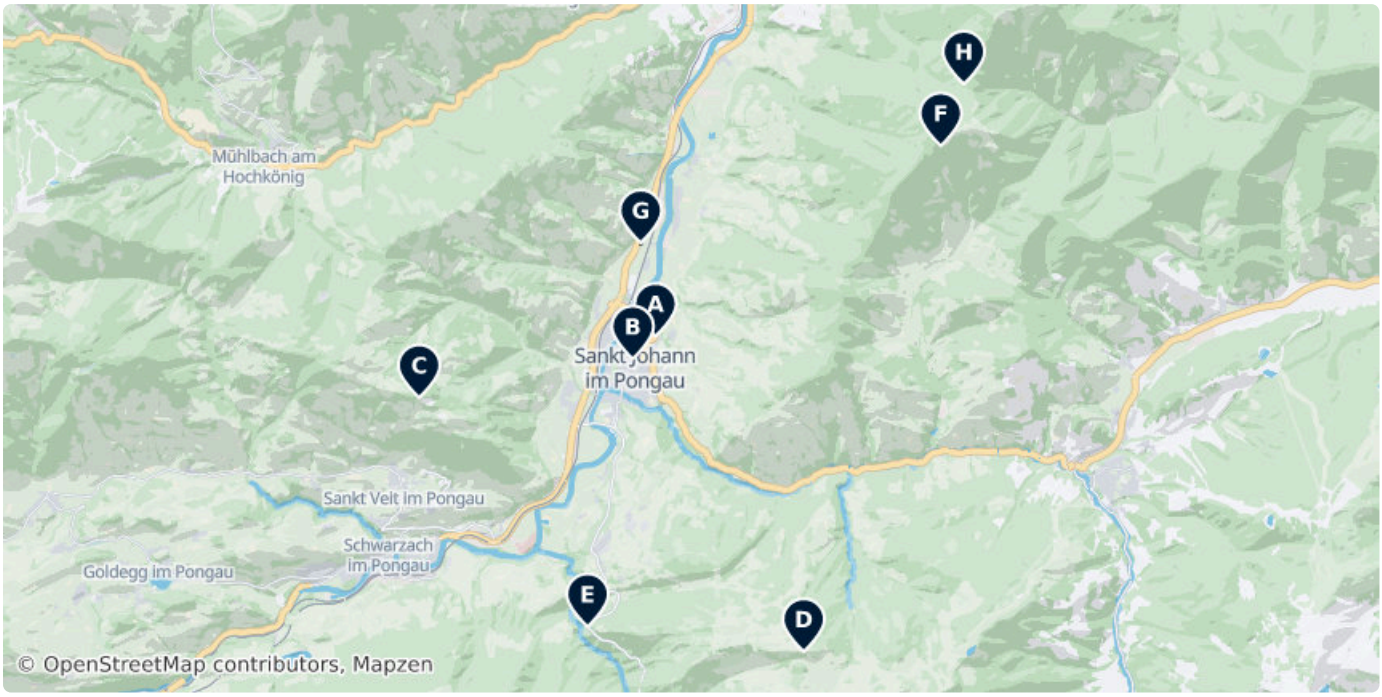
Burg Plankenau

The remains of a medieval fortification. Only minimal ruins of this former defensive structure are still visible in the Plankenau area.

5600, Austria (47.32492, 13.18398)

Hidden Gems of St. Johann

Explore the historical depth and scenic heights of St. Johann im Pongau through its collection of protected monuments and quiet retreats. This list features significant heritage sites like the Sebastiankapelle and the Russenfriedhof, a memorial for Soviet prisoners of war. It also highlights elevated viewpoints such as the Geisterturm and Kinderalm, alongside local religious shrines like the Glösenbergkapelle and the Weltfrieden memorial, offering a focused look at the region's cultural landscape.



A Sebastiankapelle

A heritage-listed chapel and religious shrine located within the municipality of St. Johann im Pongau.

34 Südtiroler Siedlung, Saint Johann im Pongau 5600, Austria (47.35223, 13.20690)

B Kriegerdenkmal

A protected war memorial and regional heritage site dedicated to the memory of fallen soldiers.

(47.34905, 13.20215)

C Kinderalm

Alpine viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountain landscape.

(47.34355, 13.15746)

D Geisterturm

Observation tower providing elevated views over the alpine region.

5600, Austria (47.30759, 13.23789)

E Glösenbergkapelle

Local religious shrine located in the Glösenberg area.

(47.31113, 13.19268)

F Heidi Strobl

Roadside shrine and local landmark.

(Unnamed Road), 5602, Austria (47.37922, 13.26657)

G Russenfriedhof

Historical cemetery and memorial for Soviet prisoners of war who died at the Stalag XVIII C camp during World War II.

Pinzgauer-Bundesstraße, 5600, Austria
(47.36547, 13.20383)

H Weltfrieden

A memorial dedicated to world peace, situated in the scenic outskirts of the municipality.

(47.38793, 13.27139)

Alpine Huts & Mountain Restaurants

This selection of traditional mountain huts and restaurants centers on the Alpendorf and Wagrain hiking regions in Sankt Johann im Pongau. These establishments serve regional Salzburg specialties, such as Kasnocken and Brettljause, often sourced from local alpine dairies. Situated along key trails near the Gernkogel and Hochgründeck peaks, many are accessible via summer cable cars and offer sun terraces with views of the Tennengebirge and Hochkönig massifs.



A Heinrich-Kiener-Haus

Located on the Hochgründeck at 1,762 meters, this hut offers panoramic views of over 300 mountain peaks. It serves traditional Austrian cuisine and provides overnight accommodation for hikers on the Salzburger Almenweg.

(47.38216, 13.26523)

hochgruendeck.at

B Großunterberg Alm

Traditional alpine hut in the Alpendorf hiking area serving homemade dairy products and regional snacks.

(47.30612, 13.26022)

C Hachaualm

Mountain restaurant in the Alpendorf-Wagrain region offering traditional Salzburg dishes and a sun terrace.

(47.30725, 13.26831)

D Buchauhütte

Situated at 1,750 meters near the Gernkogel summit, this hut features a large sun terrace and is located directly next to the Geisterberg adventure park.

(47.30889, 13.23287)

E Gernkogelalm

Alpine restaurant at 1,787 meters near the top station of the Alpendorf gondola, specializing in traditional Austrian mountain fare.

(47.30863, 13.23599)

F Straßalm

Rustic alpine hut in the Wagrain-Alpendorf area offering regional snacks and traditional refreshments for hikers.

(47.30553, 13.25041)

G Grafenbergalm

Located at the Wagrain Grafenberg at 1,700 meters, this hut is accessible via the Grafenbergbahn and accepts debit and Maestro cards.

(47.30992, 13.27313)

H Rettenebenalm (Roslalm)

Alpine hut situated between Sankt Johann and Sankt Veit, offering traditional Salzburg dishes and views of the Salzach Valley.

(47.36181, 13.15607)

I Pronebenalm

Located at 1,302 meters on the Salzburger Almenweg, this hut features a petting zoo and views of the Hochkönig massif.

(Unnamed Road), 5505, Austria (47.36120, 13.14352)

DATA SOURCES

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