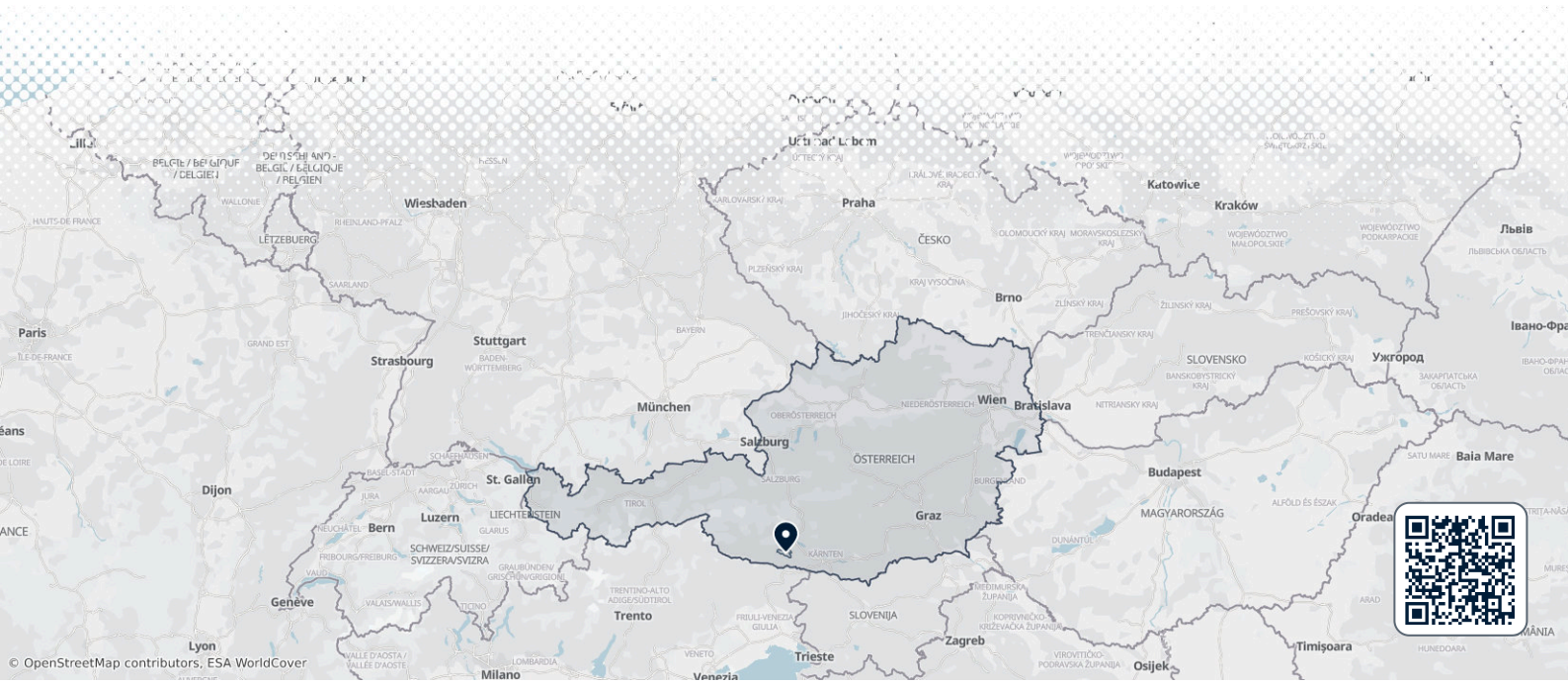


Weißensee

Carinthia · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Weißensee is the highest alpine swimming lake in Carinthia, at about 930 m, in the Gailtal Alps. The lake is about 11 km long, clear and clean, and much of it lies inside a nature park. A few small villages sit on the shore, and large parts of the banks are undeveloped.

The lake is quiet and natural. In summer it is for swimming, boating and walking. In winter it freezes, and becomes one of Europe's largest natural ice rinks.

When to visit

July and August are best for swimming. May, June and September are good for walking and cycling. January and February are the time for ice skating, ice fishing and winter walks, when the ice is thick enough, and a long-distance skating event is held in winter.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	2° / 6° Feels like -2°	-6° / -15°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	3° / 10° Feels like 0°	-5° / -14°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for watersports	7° / 15° Feels like 4°	-1° / -9°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for cycling	12° / 18°	3° / -3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	17° / 22°	7° / 2°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	21° / 27°	12° / 5°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for cycling	23° / 28°	13° / 8°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for cycling	23° / 29°	13° / 8°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	18° / 24°	9° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	14° / 20°	5° / -1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for watersports	8° / 14°	1° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-4° / -13°	Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Weißensee is the lake, with swimming spots, a shore path and boat trips.
- B Weißensee Schifffahrt Fam. Müller runs boat trips on the lake.
- C Latschur is a mountain above the lake with wide views.
- D Kreuzbergsattel is a mountain pass at the west end.
- E Alte Mühle is an old mill at the shore.
- The Naggler Alm and other huts are on hiking routes above the lake.
- The lake's winter ice rink is cleared and groomed for skaters.



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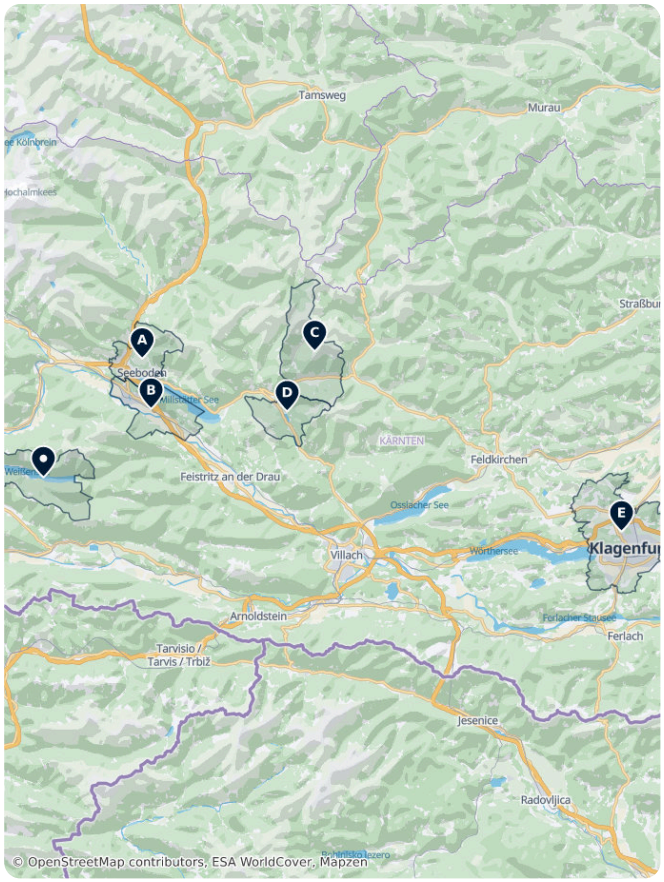
What to experience

- Swim in the lake.
- Walk or cycle the shore path.
- Skate on the ice in winter.
- Take a lake boat.
- Hike to a mountain hut.

Day trips

- A Seeboden is about 45 minutes away by car.
- B Spittal an der Drau is about 40 minutes away by car.
- C Bad Kleinkirchheim is about 1 hour 10 minutes away by car.
- D Feld am See is about 1 hour 10 minutes away by car.
- E Klagenfurt is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car.
- Hermagor and the Nassfeld ski area are about 25 minutes away by car.



Where to explore

- Seeboden and Spittal an der Drau are the nearest preferred destinations.

Getting there

- By air: Klagenfurt Airport is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car.
- By train: The nearest station is Greifenburg-Weißensee on the Drau valley line, then a bus of about 30 minutes. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: Leave the A10 at Spittal and follow the road through the Drau valley and over to the lake.

Getting around

The lake is spread out, so a car or bus is useful. A bus links the villages, and boats cross the lake in summer. The shore path suits walkers and cyclists.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The villages are small and spread along the lake, with a shore path linking them.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

A lake path and quiet back roads make cycling pleasant, with hills in the surrounding area.

Driving

A car helps for the lake villages. Roads are narrow and can close in heavy snow. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Carinthian food includes *Kärntner Kasnudeln*, filled pasta, and fresh lake fish. Local dairies and herbs are common. Inns serve warm soups in winter.

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

Weißensee is very safe. On the ice, check the local ice reports before you go on. The lake water is cold, and storms can arrive quickly. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

Weißensee was a remote farming area for centuries, with scattered farms. Tourism developed in the 20th century, and the lake was protected as a nature park. Its winter skating tradition made it known across Europe.

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

Weißensee Highlights

Carinthia's highest-altitude bathing lake, with clear water, lakeside beaches, alpine huts, panoramic viewpoints and a natural ice rink in winter.



A Weissensee

A lake in Carinthia nestled within the Gailtal Alps mountain range.

9762, Austria (46.70741, 13.34587)

B Freier Seezugang Weißensee

A beach offering direct public access to the waters of Weißensee.

(46.71062, 13.31617)

gis.ktn.gv.at/leaflet/Fotoseezu/bad_18.pdf

C Strandbad

A lakeside beach and water park located along the shores of Weißensee.

(46.71418, 13.29620)

D Weißensee Schifffahrt Fam. Müller

(46.69958, 13.40930)

weissensee-schifffahrt.at, +434761242

E Natureislauf Weissensee

A seasonal natural ice rink set on the frozen surface of Weißensee for winter ice skating.

9762, Austria (46.71540, 13.28018)

natureislauf.at

F Naggler Alm

An alpine hut situated in Naggl, welcoming hikers from Tuesday through Sunday.

Naggl 18 (46.69910, 13.31287)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Su	09:00–17:00

naggleralmut.at, +4369910361000

G Tschabitscher

A viewpoint situated at Tröbelsberg overlooking the surrounding alpine landscape.

1 Tröbelsberg, 9762, Austria (46.73296, 13.24837)



H Filialkirche Gatschach

A Catholic branch church in the municipality of Weißensee, dedicated to Saint Martin.

62 Gatschach, Techendorf 9762, Austria (46.72031, 13.28152)

I Alm Hinterm Brunn

An alpine hut situated in the mountains above the lake.

(46.72947, 13.32848)

J Hermagorer Bodenalm

An alpine mountain hut set in the surrounding hills of Weißensee.

(46.68189, 13.37983)

K Fischeralm

An alpine hut located in the mountains near the lake.

(46.67374, 13.41502)

L Weißensee - Große Steinwand

A scuba diving location on Weißensee exploring the underwater area by the rock face.

9762, Austria (46.70580, 13.34176)

dive-links.com/tauchplatz.php

M Alte Mühle

9762, Austria (46.70222, 13.32744)

vs-weissensee.ksn.at

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