

Kufsteinerland Moments

Leisurely winter

Exciting adventures and fascinating discoveries

Old School

The "Old School" in Niederndorferberg

Sledge-building

Georg Fluckinger: from the ice track to the workshop

Read Moments, experience moments in the Kufsteinerland.
A source of information and ideas, an activity guide for
locals and visitors alike.

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Experience winter in Kufsteinerland

When the sun only shows its face for a few hours each day, when you can hear the sound of the snow crunching beneath your boots and when you want to snuggle down further into your scarf – then you know winter has arrived in Kufsteinerland. Surrounded by snow-white mountain peaks, our pearl of Tyrol and its surrounding eight communities offer a wide range of activities, whether cosy or culinary, whether sporty or active and whether traditional or historic – there is something to suit every winter guest here.

We take you on a foray around some of the most beautiful spots and stories in Kufsteinerland this winter. We head uphill on the iconic Hochfeld lift in Schwoich which has been setting the pulses of both children and adults racing for decades. In his schnapps distillery, Ebbs-based performer Albert Schmider tells us about his singing shepherds who go from house to house knocking on doors. The magical spa town of Bad Häring is transformed by lantern light. The 'Federkielstickerei Fankhauser' embroidery store in Thiersee keeps a traditional craft alive. And Kufsteinerland (or more specifically Langkampfen) even has a touch of Olympic flair. Sledge-builder Georg Fluckinger knows why!

The region around the festival town has all this and many other stories of winter magic to share. Kufsteinerland pairs the pleasures of nature with culture. Pay a visit – or read all about it in this edition of Moments Magazine!



Best wishes,
Johann Mauracher



Johann Mauracher
Chairman of the Kufsteinerland Tourist Board

“Experience moments full of passion, landscapes full of colour and stories full of emotion.”



Imprint:

Responsible for the content:
TVB Kufsteinerland, Unterer Stadtplatz 11
6330 Kufstein, Tel. +43 5372 62207

Circulation: 12,000 copies in German,
3,000 copies in English

Design / Text / Graphics:
ofp kommunikation Gmbh Kufstein;
Place of publication: Kufstein

Photos: TVB Kufsteinerland, ofp kommunikation, Lolin,
VANMEY Photography, shutterstock, Löwenzahn, Valentin
Widmesser / Sportfotograf, Uli Eder Creative Jobs

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Take it easy this year



Pearls have a tradition with us.

Extraordinary shopping experiences and moments of pleasure are like pearls – there are rare to find. Kufstein is renowned as the ‚Pearl of Tyrol‘ and welcomes you with family-owned speciality shops, small boutiques with charming atmosphere and stylish gastronomy. The broad shopping facilities with excellent quality and services ensure that your purchase will become a laid-back jaunt.

www.kufstein.at

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Leisurely winter



When the white blanket of winter is placed over Kufsteinerland, some leisurely winter treats await. Snow shows up the lifeforms which live in the forests and meadows. And winter experiences are like a kaleidoscope of possibilities. Peaceful adventures, energy-charged discoveries and moments which last an eternity.

Relaxing adventures and fascinating discoveries in wintry Kufsteinerland

A gentle crack sound is the only warning. A fraction of a second later, it gets dark. The rays of sunshine are only vaguely visible. Individual snowflakes land gently on the warm faces below. The fog slowly begins to lift as individual snowflakes swirl through the air and sparkle in the sunlight. Looking up – the branch which has shed its load of snow swings gently to and from. Snow has covered the surrounding trees like candyfloss. A winter fairy-tale which can turn into a mini snowstorm beneath the warming rays of sunshine. Hikers take it in their stride and knock the snow from their caps. They have long got used to the snowshoes on their feet.

Mountain guide Lisi laughs knowingly. “Anyone who has ever gone walking in snowshoes usually gets bitten by the snowshoe bug very quickly. This unique method of movement taps into nature in an unexpected way”. The group slowly continues. There is a certain degree of excitement and curiosity among some of them, now that the culmination of the winter walk is drawing closer.

The sound of silence

“I like to go walking in winter most of all, either classic walking or on snowshoes,” says Harald Löffel. As a mountain guide, the Kufstein resident is out in the open air almost every day. He discovered his love of snowshoes in 1981 before snowshoes existed in their current form. “At first, I just went out with snow tyres which was much more tiring but still fun”. The walk continues on across the meadow, drawing closer to the forest. Harald never tires of pointing out the beautiful sights to the other walkers.

“The trees become deformed under the weight of the snow. The interwoven shrubs. For me, this is all part of the winter experience. Just like the sound of blood roaring in your ears, interspersed with the quiet sounds of winter.

When you spend a lot of time outdoors, over time you become aware of the influence of temperature on the snow and on the sounds of nature”. The crunching sound of the snow differs according to the temperature and the sensation of inhaling the air is different, as he explains. “Even photos get better with the cold,” he adds with a wink – after all, he always takes endless photos. Especially when the temperature is just right, the snow starts to soften at the surface and form into little ice crystals in the uppermost layer. His eyes sparkle and he says ‘Do you want to see?’ getting his phone out.

>>



*“Snowshoe walking is
only different in your head”.*

Mountain guide Lisi Schwaiger



There are endless options for exploring Kufsteinerland on foot in winter. The cleared winter footpaths in Thiersee and Hinterthiersee are ideal for beginners. And for those who prefer something a bit more challenging, Harald recommends one of his favourite tours. Following the steps up into the Kaisertal valley, via the Ritzau Alm and on to Vorderkaiserfelden. On hearing the word 'Kaisertal', mountain guide Maria Bachmann gets enthusiastic. The valley was named Austria's most beautiful spot in 2016 and also shows off its most beautiful side during the cold season. Once you have completed the challenging ascent up the steps, you are greeted by breath-taking views of the fortress town and surrounding mountains as a reward. With each step, winter closes in on the hikers more and more and the valley, which is even cut off in winter, seems even further away from reality. The untouched winter landscape fascinates, nestled among the Zahmer and Wilder Kaiser peaks. "The tranquillity here is even more evident in winter," says Maria of her walks to the Kaisertal valley. The sunshine treats the area well, warming up the mountain slopes and captivating in winter by creating a little greenery by the way-side on the southern slopes. And then suddenly, the smell of spring fills the air. The scent of fresh earth. And then comes the culinary highlight. The mountain lodges in the Kaisertal valley also open in winter. Apple strudel or sugared pancakes never taste better than when eaten in the warming sunshine of the terrace or in one of the cosy lounges.

Tracks in the snow

A beetle crawls over the snow. Its black shell can be seen from afar, as can the animal tracks leading towards the forest. Life in nature becomes more visible in winter. Hares, squirrels, foxes,



"The little snowflakes are delicate and filigree in design. Each is a bit different, as if they have been painted by an artist".

Mountain guide Harald Löffel

roe deer and stags are all out and about and make their mark in the snow. "With every track you see, you realise that you are not alone and that there is a lot of life all around you, despite the wintry silence in the forest," says mountain guide Lisi Schwaiger. Sabine Gwirl is also outdoors and active in winter. The hunter pays particular attention to the tracks in the snow and knows how to read them. "The snow reveals the preferred route taken by the wild animals. Young deer learn from their mothers which routes they should take". The hunter heads for the feeding points in the forest. The hunting season draws to a close at the end of December and feeding time begins. "Wild animals are adept at surviving harsh winters and their metabolism slows down so that they need less food.



From sledging to winter walks and ski touring – there are no limits to winter fun in Kufsteinerland.



Searching for food during the cold season

Before humans settled on the plains, wild animals moved from the mountains into the valley in their search for food in winter, into the wetlands and as far across as Munich. The wetland landscapes provided enough food for the red deer until the snow retreated and they were able to return to the forest. Today, their routes are cut off by roads and settlements. "When hungry, the animals are starting to nibble at the trees which can cause enormous damage to the woodland. If they bite off the terminal shoot, the tree will not regrow. To avoid this, we hunters have set up feeding points. We direct the animals to quieter areas where they can eat undisturbed". "You will see more if you walk quietly through the forest," Sabine recommends before getting passionate about winter. "Stop for a while, enjoy the peace and quiet and recognise that people, as well as nature, need rest periods, that's what winter is for me".

Sporty winter fun

The sound of neighing echoes across the snow-covered fields. The sense of joy is audible even before the carriage turns around the corner. Two Haflinger horses stand out magnificently against the winter landscape. The snow is scattered into the air like dust. The world-famous Fohlenhof Ebbs stud farm, the World Haflinger Centre, is not the only place offering horse-drawn carriage rides in Kufsteinerland. Looking across the meadow, two cross-country skiers trekking along the gently sweeping cross-country track catch the eye. Around the lake, along the edge of the forest with the fortress in sight, past the picturesque villages. The endless cross-country trails make it hard to choose. "Making the choice is really difficult," Lisi laughs. "If anyone asks me, I recommend the trail around Lake Thiersee. The views of the still water and the idyllic surrounding landscape are the icing on the sporting cake".



"You will see more if you walk quietly through the forest"

Hunter Sabine Gwirl

But the views from the mountain plateau in Bad Häring also impress. The only problem with cross-country skiing in Kufsteinerland is probably that there are too many trails and you can't try them all! Especially because there are so many other things to explore here too!

Insider tips for those who like to be active

She is passionate about her own favourite route right by the river Inn. "The Inn dams, like many other footpaths in Kufsteinerland, are cleared and are perfect for running, walking and Nordic walking. A peaceful and gentle sporting experience with a difference in the white landscapes," says Maria. The mountain guide also knows some 'cool idyllic' descents on the slopes in Hinterthiersee for skiers wishing to escape the crowds. "And then there is also our special ski touring area," she adds when asked about her personal insider's tip. In summer, this ski resort in Kufstein brings pleasure to hiking enthusiasts thanks to the Kaiser lift. And in winter, the pistes belong to the ski tourers. "People come here from all over, especially in the night too".

>>



The 'onion look'

In winter, walking requires a degree of planning when it comes to clothing. Mountain guide Harald Löffel recommends applying the 'onion look'. Lots of thin layers of clothing, one on top of the other. It is important not to get too hot or cold. A person can freeze if their clothing gets damp with sweat. It is therefore also important to walk at an appropriate speed to avoid sweating.

Rediscover the night



Photo: Stefan Thaler, Thiersee

Energy centres in winter

Hiking guide Harald Löffel has reached the edge of the forest with his group. There is a pleasant and dusky atmosphere in the air. They follow the narrow path, sheltered by snowy branches. Suddenly, after a gentle bend, they are back in the sunshine. A circular clearing at the heart of the forest. They have reached their destination – the Riedenberg stone circle, one of Kufsteinerland's energy centres. This area here in Kufsteinerland across to Bavaria was a cult region even in the Bronze Age. The stone circle is formed of seven stones. One in the middle and six in a circle, like the structures of nature. The stones act like an acupuncture needle and strengthen the energy at

the site by exerting pressure on the ground and creating a grid network. "The energy impacts on everyone. Sensitive people feel it directly. People with too much energy already can even get a headache from it. In this case, it is best to leave the circle again," Harald adds, mentioning other energy centres in Kufsteinerland. From the Tischoferhöhle cave in the Kaisertal valley to the idyllic waterfall in Bad Häring and the St. Nikolaus chapel. "This chapel in Ebbs is situated on a hill with legendary views of the mountains and surrounding villages," Maria explains. Here in the stone circle, mountain guides perform little incense rituals with their groups to enhance the atmosphere even further.



“The energy of the energy centres impacts on everyone”.

Hiking guide and night watchman Harald Löffel

Refuel and breathe

But the energy centres are not the only means of recharging your batteries in Kufsteinerland over winter. Harald offers the chance to get the energy flowing with regular Qi Gong exercises. Eight golden exercises accompany his Modal Circuit. Maria invites visitors on walks covering the five elements. A conscious awareness of finding oneself, stepping outside of everyday life and exploring new perspectives. The landscape changes. The Tyrolean forest gives way to an area which might easily be derived from Scandinavia. It's 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Twilight is falling and the first fogs are beginning to appear. Harald's group have reached the Riedenberg moorland – a place which has always fascinated Harald. “The moorland is a place which swallows things up. Some people are almost broken from the load they are carrying in life. For them it is exceptionally liberating to walk across the moorland in winter and let go of their mental load. The route then leads back over the meadows to the start. It's time for Harald to take a rest. Then he gets changed, throws on his thick cloak and sets off to the Römerhofgasse in Kufstein's old town, his stick in one hand and a lantern in the other. Kufstein's mountain guide becomes a night watchman who takes visitors on a journey back to the Middle Ages with his tales. “For me, this is one of the gentlest winter experiences,” he says, his eyes shining. The winter forest can be seen hazily in the background while the fortress towers magnificently over the town, all lit up. The day draws to a romantic close and Harald disappears into the night, the sound of crunching snow breaking the silence.

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Always on track

Kufsteinerland's cross-country network offers a route to suit every requirement. From beginners to professionals and from classic style to skating. For those who prefer not to take their own equipment on holiday or who simply fancy a taster of this relaxed yet challenging sport, suitable equipment can be hired from the Sports Shop Schuler in Schwoich or from sporthaler in Thiersee.

TIP: The Schuler cross-country school offers professional support for those first steps on cross-country skis, both in groups and as private lessons. A glimpse into the world of biathlon can also be provided.



Racing down on two blades

Sporty winter fun, rapid descents and tight bends. The toboggan runs of Kufsteinerland offer unrivalled fun in the snow for visitors of all ages. The Hintertux and Aschenbrenner toboggan runs are situated close to the fortress town in a natural setting and are always well prepared.

TIP: Page 54 contains all the toboggan runs of Kufsteinerland at a glance.



The tee and the stick

Kufsteinerland's leisurely winter can also be amusing, as mountain guide Lisi explains. Curling, for example, is all about fun, parties and sociable get-togethers. Curling is possible at each of the eight picturesque villages as well as in the fortress town itself.

TIP: The Kufsteinerland tourist board offers curling at the Fun Arena Hallo Du in Ebbs up until 07.03.2017, from 16:45 til 18:15 as part of its adventure programme. Participation is free with the Kufsteinerland Card. Registration required the day beforehand.



Ice-skating on the lake

The very special experience of skating on the smooth surface of a lake is available on the Hechtsee and Thiersee lakes in Kufsteinerland, when the weather is cooperating, surrounded by trees with the mountains of Tyrol as a backdrop. There are also numerous other ice rinks dotted across Kufsteinerland for some ice-based indulgence.

TIP: The ice rink facilities at the Kufstein Arena are the ideal place for skating if the lakes are not frozen over in winter.



From the town to the mountain

*Workout and balance with a ski tour on
Kufstein's local mountain*



As soon as the meadows in the valley have been coated with their first dusting of snow, the tracks on the slope to the Hinterdux can be seen from the fortress town. The people of Kufstein are always keen to climb the former ski pistes to the Brentenjoch again. Whether for training purposes, as a safe alternative during hazardous avalanche conditions or just to meet a few ski touring colleagues.



A ski tour on the Brentenjoch is unique, especially when Mother Nature has covered the landscape in a fresh dusting of snow.



The Kaiser lift car park is a meeting point for lots of ski tourers from the surrounding area. In summer, the chair lift departs from here, offering a comfortable trip up to the Kaisergebirge peaks. But instead of the gentle whirring of the lift, during the snowy winter you will hear the clicking of touring bindings, the 'ripping' of zips and the laughing of people enjoying exercise in nature.

The ski tour along the former piste to the Brentenjoch is very popular with both locals and guests alike. It is situated in the town itself and can be quickly incorporated into a day's activities with a walk time of max. 2 hours. But it's even better to take your time...

A ski tour with character

The ascent is steep at the start. After a short descent to the fells, the middle section gets flatter and alternates between climbs and connecting trails. Towards the end, it follows an ascent again. But no extensive ski touring experience is required to conquer the climb to the Brentenjoch. This ski tour is also secured against avalanches and follows an abandoned piste.



Gourmet trail

The route leads along to the Gasthof Hinterdux and past the Duxeralm on the Brentenjoch to the mountain station. From here, it is just a few metres up to the Weinbergerhaus. Once at the top, the rewards are many: views of the Inntal valley and Chiemgauer Alps and the impressive panorama of the Wilder Kaiser. And of course, Tyrolean specialities are served, for example at the Weinbergerhaus lodge. Together with a warming open fire and a pleasant chat with other ski tourers.

The descent, however, can be somewhat more turbulent for the less experienced. The snowy hills come one after the other and are interspersed with grassy and rocky sections.

This results in an adventure-packed 'mogul slope' which feels more like freeriding than a former piste. Perhaps this is what defines the charm of this ski tour – the feeling of being on off-piste terrain. If you have the choice between new and older skis, we recommend choosing an older model for this tour so that you can enjoy this varied descent without any misgivings.

Show me your skis, I'll show you mine

If you get chatting to some locals during the ascent or at the Weinbergerhaus, you are sure to learn lots of interesting things about skiing. The world's first ski manufacturer 'Kneissl' began producing skis in Kufstein in 1900. The company's star logo has been bringing sparkle to the winter sports scene throughout its history as Austria's first ski brand and the inventor of the Big Foot and Carving Ski. From the White Star, which was released in 1919 as the first series model, to the current models of exclusive racing skis, carving skis and, of course, touring skis. Small numbers of these exquisite skis are still produced and marketed here at the company's small workshop. You are bound to meet Kufstein locals on the Brentenjoch who have memories to associate with these skis from Kufstein. >>

Ski tour on the Brentenjoch – an overview:

- ✓ Starting point: Kaiser lift Kufstein car park
- ✓ Destination: Weinbergerhaus
- ✓ Duration: 2 hours
- ✓ Ascent: 743 m altitude
- ✓ Length: 3 km
- ✓ Difficulty: easy

Taking a break:

The Weinbergerhaus is open daily from 10:00 until 22:00 from 16 December. It closes at 18:00 on Sundays and is closed all day on Mondays. However the recliners are still left out for visitors to relax on the terrace.

Contact for landlord Tobias:
 +43 664 2564760
 mail@weinbergerhaus.at
 www.weinbergerhaus.at

Safety First

Tips for a safe ski tour

Each year, more and more people enjoy a tour away from the usual ski pistes. Idyllic Alpine landscapes and untouched valleys attract mountain sports fans to the open terrain. Safety is the most important aspect of a successful tour. Every ski tourer is responsible for himself/herself and for the group in the mountains. It is essential to check the weather forecast and current avalanche risk in advance. Suitable equipment is also part of preparing properly. Anyone wishing to explore the off-piste terrain away from the secured and marked trails should ensure that they take avalanche protection equipment with them including an avalanche rescue beacon, sensor and shovel.

A mobile phone with a fully charged battery is also essential. Clothing is important too. To ensure that you don't get hypothermia from sweaty clothing, it is recommended that you take a change of clothes with you. Sufficient food and drink should be taken with you in case the tour lasts longer than expected.

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Literature tip:

Ski Tour Guide Tyrol: The most beautiful ski tours from Kitzbühel to the Sellraintal valley.

The 'Skitourenführer Tirol' (ski tour guide Tyrol) features beautiful gourmet tours as well as virtually unknown destinations, powerful freeriding descents, steep gullies and transitions.




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A Traditional Hotel - Reinvented

After spending several years in the Swiss gastronomy scene, the Austrian-born Stephan Mauracher moved back to his native home in the Tyrol. The challenge of taking over and continuing the operation of the Alpenrose in Kufstein, a hotel rich in tradition, and at the same time to inject new life into it, enticed him back to his roots. Together with a youthful, dynamic team that brings a lot of energy and fresh ideas to the job, the Alpenrose will bloom again. In this interview the ambitious hotelier reveals what innovations the guests can expect.

Stephan, what has your prior professional career been like?

The "hotel" subject runs like a red thread throughout my life: After my training in tourism in St. Johann in Tyrol, I completed my education as a department manager in the Austrian Hotel Association in Vienna. After that, I got my first experience in 5-star hotels, including in the Palace Hotel in Gstaad. In Switzerland I opened and managed two "Healthy Fast food" restaurants. The "Hotel Alpenrose Kufstein" is my new project, and I have poured my energy and creativity into it.

What were the decisive reasons for taking over this hotel?

My passion for quality. Being around people for so many years. Whether eating or drinking a fine wine in good company. It makes me happy to make people happy. I think that is

Are there reasons for choosing Kufstein?

Absolutely! Firstly, Kufstein is where I grew up and where my family is. In addition, Kufstein has a lot to offer: Its unique position in the middle of the Tyrolian mountains and lakes. The fortress town has perfect transportation connections and is a paradise for lovers of nature, culture, sports and cuisine.

What changes would you like to make in the Alpenrose?

We are dealing with a traditional building that was not turned inside out in a knee-jerk fashion. That's why we intend to proceed carefully in the

hotel conversion. But the new Alpenrose in any case will get a new look and feel that fits with our philosophy.

What is your culinary concept?

Our emphasis in the kitchen is on regional dishes and sustainability. Products will arrive on the table from our family operation at Lindhof. The eggs are free-range, honey comes from our own bees, the marmelade is our own production. Herbs and seasonal fruit and vegetables come directly from the herb and vegetable gardens right onto the plate. Turkey and lamb are raised in a proper environment. Beginning in 2018 we will also produce beef from our own herds in Alpine pastures. We have our own, definitely authentic, honest and regional style that is a part of our team-building.

What chef will bring the kitchen to life?

Markus Heimann. He used to cook in a gourmet restaurant in Munich and for Michael Sobota in Stube. He learned from Detlev Schmidkunz in the 5-star "Die Wutzschleife". In addition, he also trained with Alfons Schuhbeck and in the Aquarello. Using regional products he produces elegant and magical creations, which are nonetheless down-to-earth.



The Alpenrose in Kufstein

Stephan Mauracher
Weissachstraße 47, 6330 Kufstein
Tel.: +43 5372 / 6 21 22
E-Mail: stephan@alpenrose-kufstein.at
www.alpenrose-kufstein.at



ALPENROSE
KUFSTEIN

A living fortress



Kufstein fortress catches the attention with a new 21st century museum experience. Things get virtual from 2019.

A prisoner stands up from the wooden bench and approaches with slow steps. The furnishings in the room are more than sparse. Thick stone walls frame the room which has very little daylight. Once the prisoner is up close, he starts to talk quietly about his life in this cell here high above Kufstein. This scene at Kufstein fortress is still a thing of the future but the story of these ancient walls will be brought to life in 2019. But it is the virtual world, not actors, who will breathe life back into the fortress.



Step inside the prison cells of the past. With mirrors and paintings which suddenly come to life and speak to the visitors. The ViSIT museum project transforms a trip to the fortress into a virtual adventure back through time. Virtual interconnected systems (ViSIT) and IT technology are used to make this cultural heritage accessible to tourists.

“The feeling is one of standing in the centre of this virtual world and being a part of it,” says Emanuel Präauer, Managing Director of the fortress marketing company Top-City-Kufstein GmbH of the concept behind the new museum project.

>>



“When you put on the virtual reality glasses, you are suddenly transported back to the middle of the 14th century”

*Emanuel Präauer,
Managing Director of Top-City-Kufstein GmbH*

The University of Applied Sciences Kufstein and Top City Kufstein have been working on the new multi-media project with the University of Passau, Veste Oberhaus and research company Salzburg Research since October 2016. In addition to the virtual reality glasses, smart desks and 3D projections will also be used. This will enable the fortress itself to take visitors on a journey back in time in the form of a 3D model. "By turning back the wheel of time, visitors can observe the transformation of the fortress in 3D and explore the various phases of its construction".

Beyond the walls

Digitisation is just a part of the project. Not only should the museum reflect the past in the future, but the fortress as a whole will also become a museum over the coming two years.

"In future, anyone entering this landmark of the town of Kufstein will be submersed in their own world, transported into the past of the fortress".

Emanuel Präauer,
Managing Director of Top-City-Kufstein GmbH



From a puzzle rally for children to a tour with informative, historic background facts.

A special museum plan will guide visitors through the walls with opportunities to reflect different interests. From a puzzle rally for children to a tour with informative, historic background facts". The project won't stop at the fortress walls either, as Emanuel Präauer explains. "We will also be using the new virtual possibilities to feature artefacts from other fortresses in the 3D models, bringing to life the connections between the individual fortresses". Artefacts from the Veste Oberhaus are being digitally documented for this new museum experience at present. <<

The fortress in figures



Kufstein: siege by the troops of Kaiser Maximilian I in October 1504, water colour

Source: from Fugger-Jäger, Vienna Picture Archives at the Austrian National Library

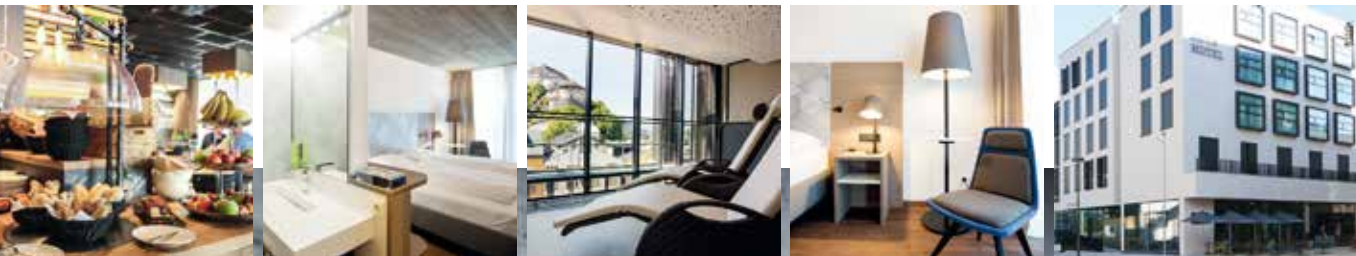
Kufstein fortress was first documented in **1205** and is one of Tyrol's most imposing mediaeval structures.

The **2** canons, 'Purlepau' and 'Weckauf', are among the best-known exhibits at the local history museum in the Kaiserturm tower of the fortress.

With **4,948** pipes and **65** stops, the Bürgerturm tower at Kufstein fortress is home to the world's largest outdoor organ.

Situated on a **90** m high rock face, the journey up here on the panorama lift offers sensational views across the fortress town.

The Josefsburg has been covered since **2005** and hosts events from rock concerts to the famous Kufstein Operetta Summer.



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Winter shopping in the fortress town

Special Christmas presents are like pearls – finding them requires a dose of luck! But in Kufstein, you can enjoy this good fortune without looking for too long. Shopping, sightseeing and cuisine combined – a special experience in Advent.

Anticipation is the greatest joy

The **Christmas market at the Stadtpark** in Kufstein is a meeting place for all ages during Advent. Hearty foods, artistic crafts and a carefully designed children's programme invite visitors to enjoy, experience and stay a while.

A stroll through the Stadtpark with its dusting of snow may also be a great opportunity to find a Christmas gift or two. And you can warm up with a cup of mulled wine or punch or with a hot barley soup or freshly prepared chestnuts. But the fortress town also has plenty to offer for those who prefer to stay inside: **small traditional shops**, their display windows set off to perfection at Christmas under the lights of the town's Christmas decorations. And behind each door is a wide range of products which define the special charm of the town: whether a cup of tea in the cosy reading corner of the 'Buchcafé', a piece of cake surrounded by home accessories

or hand-made pralines at the heart of the town – there is no shortage of culinary offers when shopping in Kufstein! The Christmas Magic market also opens its doors at the fortress on all four weekends of Advent. Traditional crafts are presented in the casements of the old walls and the sound of traditional Christmas carols played by brass bands creates a real atmosphere in this historic setting.

If you follow the covered staircase back down into the centre of Kufstein, **the Inntalcenter and Kufstein Gallerien shopping centres** invite guests to stroll and explore. Covered over and with numerous parking spaces, the wait for Christmas does not seem so long here. The product range extends from exquisite fragrances for special occasions to suitable footwear for icy winter days and cosy wool coats – an offer which is bound to set the pulses of shopping fans racing!



Shopping becomes an event and night is turned into day

Shop to your heart's content until 22:00 with atmospheric live music, a coach ride through wintry Kufstein and some irresistible offers. The fortress town offers night shopping three times a year.

Advent shopping evening

on Thursday 14.12.2017
until 22:00



Parking in the centre of Kufstein

The historic town of Kufstein provides visitors with a diverse and varied shopping experience. Family-run shops with unique and sustainable products, small boutiques with a special charm and delicious cuisine – Kufstein promises a varied shopping paradise and unrivalled quality. Modern shopping centres like the Inttalcenter Kufstein and Kufstein Galerien right in the centre complete the offer.

There is nothing to prevent visitors enjoying a very special shopping experience here. Not even the search for a parking space. Thanks to the new **Kultur-Quartier-Garage (P6)** car park and two car parks at the **Kufstein Galerien (P3)** and **Inttalcenter Kufstein (P4)** shopping centres, visitors can enjoy hassle-free parking right in the centre. The shops and restaurants in the town centre, the fortress and the beautiful Inn promenade can be explored from here on foot.

<<



purlepaus

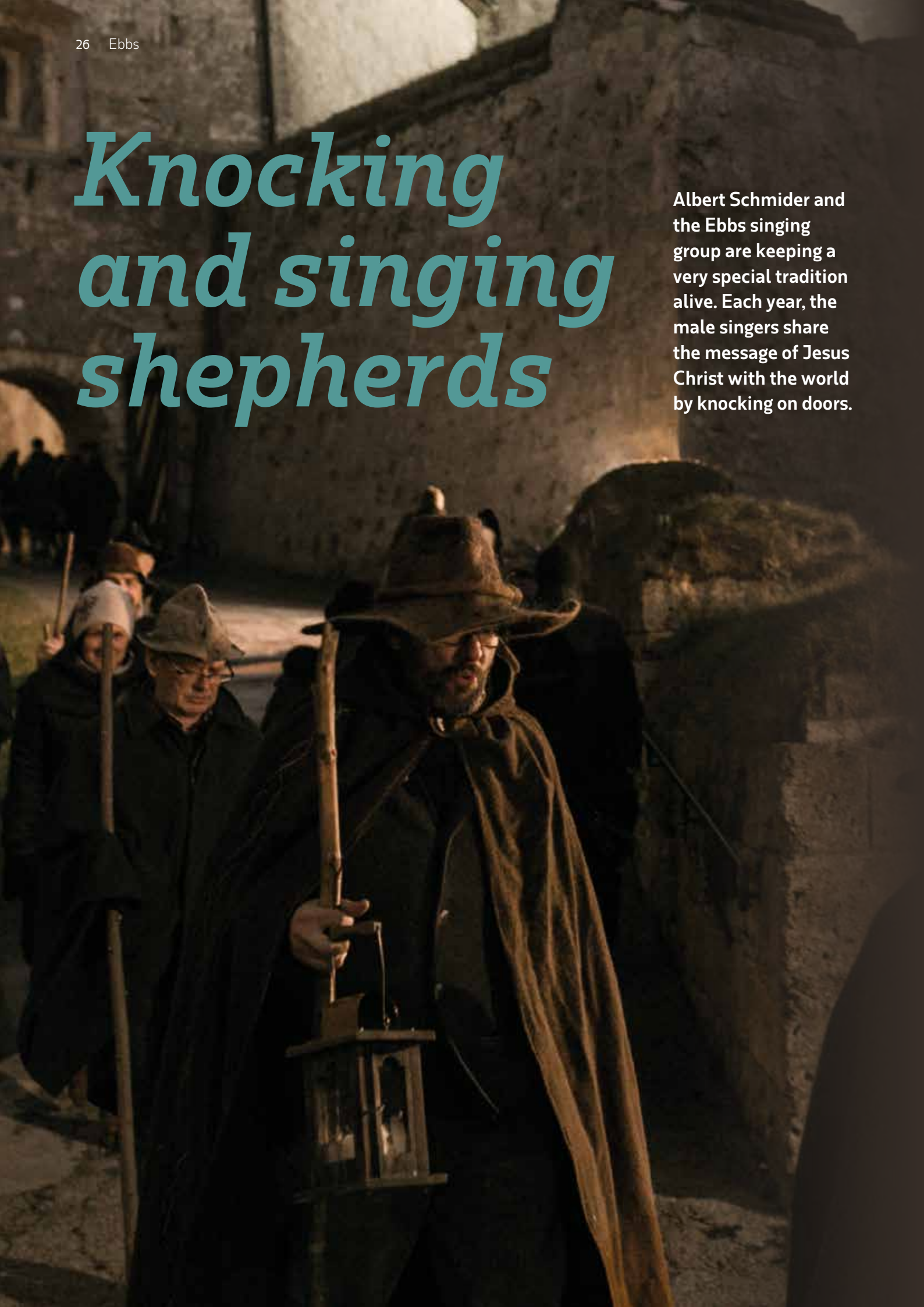


"EATING
IS A NEED.
ENJOYING
IS AN ART.



Knocking and singing shepherds

Albert Schmider and the Ebbs singing group are keeping a very special tradition alive. Each year, the male singers share the message of Jesus Christ with the world by knocking on doors.





The singing shepherds have been performing their pastoral play for over 40 years, moving from house to house and spreading Christmas cheer throughout the village. In this interview, Schmider offers personal insight into this ancient tradition.

Interview with Albert Schmider

Albert, where did the Ebbs singing group's 'knocking' tradition begin?

Georg Anker, the former choir master in Ebbs and Sepp Landmann, school principle and folk music pioneer, both played a key part. The trend for this 'knocking' tradition resurfaced at the start of the 70s and both quickly jumped on the bandwagon. Josef then wrote his own pastoral play, the 'Ebbser Herbergssuche'. Fun and thought-provoking sayings and songs are interspersed. The play is still performed unchanged today.

How do the performers dress?

We aim to depict authentic shepherds and farmhands from the Middle Ages. The look includes a long cape, a shepherd's stick and a lantern. And of course, a long beard is a must. When the cold season comes, we let our facial hair grow!

How does a typical night go?

Generally, we meet at around 17:30. We go from house to house in groups of max. 6 people. Of course, we try to time it right because nobody wants to be sung and performed to straight after a hectic day at work. Ideally, our listeners will be enjoying a well-deserved evening after work. If possible, we knock on the door but in apartment blocks, we have to ring the doorbell, like it or not (laughs). We then perform a section of our pastoral play to the residents.



Albert Schmider,
Chairman of the
Ebbs Singing Group.

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The Ebbs performers start their sociable rehearsals in September.

How often do you go 'knocking' in Advent?

Rehearsals start in September and take place every week. Together with a few fixed bookings, we give around 100 performances over the Christmas period. The short Advent this year makes things a bit more stressful but if we can't keep calm, who can?

Albert, how did you become one of the traditional knocking performers?

When I was young, the singing group often asked me if I wanted to be a member. I had to decline back then due to time constraints. When a TV crew visited my distillery in Ebbs, I happened to mention a few anecdotes about the knocking tradition by chance. This part of the interview was actually broadcast on 3SAT too. After that, the singing group didn't leave me any choice and persuaded me (laughs). I have been happy with the decision ever since.

What do you see as the most convincing argument for passing this custom onto the next generation?

As a child, whenever I heard the shepherds knocking on the door, it signalled the start of the much longed-for Christmas period. The meaning of Christmas often falls by the wayside these days. We want to bring a bit of calm to the often hectic Advent period with this custom. Often it works miracles to listen to the pastoral play for 20 minutes or so as a means of finding peace. Every year, people are touched by this anew – as am I. I am very happy to be part of this team because we are preserving something truly unique and valuable.

>>

Christmas Magic at Kufstein fortress

Away from the hustle and bustle, the marathon gift buying and Christmas chaos, Advent can be savoured in peace and quiet at the Christmas Magic market in the historic Kufstein fortress. Visitors can enjoy a unique atmosphere in the casemates of the Josefsburg. Selected stands serve up culinary treats, local crafts and original gift ideas over the four weekends before Christmas. There is also a Christmas workshop and bakery for the youngest guests. Albert Schmider and his 'knocking' singers will also be performing their pastoral play.



The Ebbs performers are also present at Kufstein's Christmas Magic market each year.



Relaxation & cuisine

Well-being for the body, mind and soul

Tyrolean hotel & innkeeping culture at the foot of the Wilder Kaiser.

Traditional meets modern is probably the best way to describe our philosophy. Landlady Maria Egger-Rieder and the 'Schanzer team' are committed to offering authentic and honest Tyrolean hospitality as well as being open to new things. This is reflected in the menu and in particular the hotel offers.

Pure pleasure – tasty treats from the hotel's own kitchens

The kitchen team place strong focus on regional and seasonal produce and cook up classics and fresh, modern dishes with passion. Wines to complement the dishes are also available and are stored in an old wine cellar with a stone vaulted ceiling.

Regional products are a core issue, especially when it comes to the cuisine. We place our trust in authentic and honest food sourced in particular from partners in the region.

The beef comes from the 'Thierberger Jahrling' veal breed, the dairy products from the local Alpine dairies, the fresh fish from the nearby fish farm, the herbs from the hotel's own gardens and much more, making your visit here a real culinary experience.

Back to the roots with the power of nature

We apply this philosophy for the family and also want to bring pleasure to our guests. In spring 2017, the hotel began to carry out its own farming again.

Our landlord Andreas Egger is a 'neo farmer'. He has his own small herd of sheep, initially at our wonderful mountain lodge in Rettenschöss and now at the new stables in Ebbs where we hope to soon also have a little flock of happy hens.

Top up on energy & relaxation

Relax in the cosy ambience of our hotel, nestled within the beautiful natural and cultural landscape of Tyrol's Unterinntal valley. Enjoy the hotel's personal level of service and set your soul free in the apple orchard or Finnish sauna with views of the Wilder Kaiser. Our new 'Kaiserblick' country house style guest rooms and modern 'Zirbe' guest rooms offer relaxation with a well-being vibe.

Our 4-star hotel based in a central location at the entrance to the Inntal valley is the ideal starting point for your activities. Whether cultural, sporty, a day trip or simply a day of relaxation... be impressed and become a friend of the hotel.

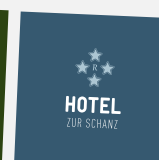


Picture credit: zur Schanz, dquadrat.at



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Ebbs 'Anklöpfler' Singing Group, 1926 www.musikinstrumente.musikland-tirol.at

*'Don't lock the door,
soon the Holy Spirit
will come, bringing
peace and
tranquillity'*

Anklöpfeln' (knocking) is an ancient custom which dates back to the Middle Ages. During the 'knocking nights' in Advent, maids and farmhands used to go from farm to farm knocking. They announced the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the form of sayings and songs. In return, they received bacon, schnapps and cheese to improve their meagre existence a little. Today, the 'knocking' performers do not receive food; it is more about maintaining and sharing a custom. However money is also collected to cover the expenses of the organisation and other social projects. The custom has been largely maintained and preserved in Tyrol's Unterland region. In 2011, the custom was even recognised by UNESCO as a form of Intangible Cultural Heritage. <<



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- 👑 Fairy-tale garden

Proud as a peacock



schneesüchtig!

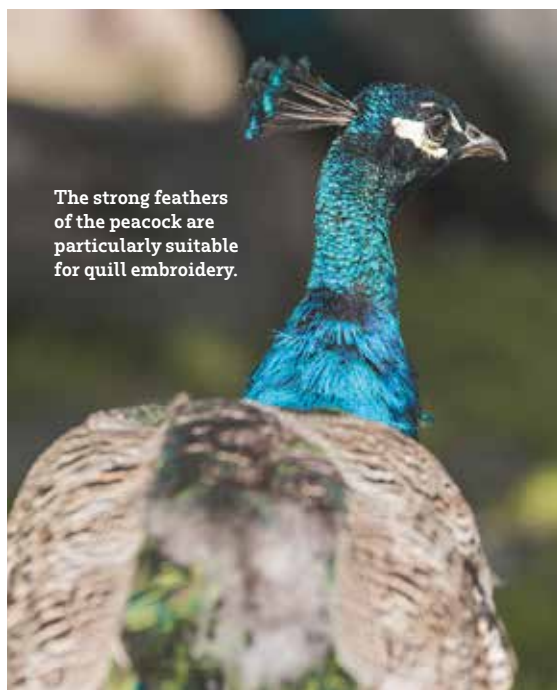
The ancient craft of quill embroidery is a long-standing tradition. However, only a few people are skilled in this art these days. One of them is Christian Fankhauser who is based here in Thiersee.

The embroidery is based on ancient traditions and reflects where the craft comes from: "It is not unusual for peacock feathers to be used because peacocks were often kept at some of the larger farms in the past".

On the one hand, peacocks were bred as pets for the aristocracy for prestige reasons. And on the other, the birds offered protection: they watched over the chicken coops and shrieked whenever a fox approached.

Peacock feathers are particularly suitable for quill embroidery. They are very strong and grow straight - this enables peacocks to make their famous fan of feathers. The feathers are then shed after mating. "Farmers simply made use of everything. Cows were used, from their horns to their hooves and it's the same for the feathers," says Christian Fankhauser. Quill embroidery developed between 1760 and 1780 in the Bavaria-Upper Austria border region and became widespread across the Alpine region a short time later.

"Quill embroidery groups were everywhere in 1800, which is something of a miracle".



The strong feathers of the peacock are particularly suitable for quill embroidery.



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The exact production process for the delicate threads is a well-guarded secret.



Up to 160 hours of work can be invested in a completed traditional costume belt.



Christian Fankhauser also decorates belts, handbags, wallets and braces at his workshop, in addition to the traditional costume belts.

The 'Ranzen' (traditional costume belt) was originally a small item used by people who were away a lot – merchants, cattle dealers, mariners and wagoners. It enabled them to carry their money close to the body. By 1880, quill embroidery had fallen out of fashion for a time. Uniform tailors brought a black suit for farmers onto the market. This was cheaper than wearing a hand-made costume. After the First World War and with the arrival of bands and costume and rifle associations, a return to the tradition was evident:

“The traditional costume belt is not about survival, it’s about showing that you can afford it”.

During the 1960s, the business flourished, selling hand-embroidered traditional costume belts. A great deal of money was invested in preserving ancient customs, especially in Bavaria and South and North Tyrol, including by the government. So many associations were able to afford to order beautiful embroidery work again. The hand-embroidered belts are still very much in demand today: “The delivery period for the traditional costume belts is 1.5 years,” says Christian Fankhauser. Young people in particular are prepared to invest more money again and to wait:

“When I buy something for myself, it has to be the right thing and that applies to traditional dress too”.

Christian Fankhauser arrived at his craft via various twists and turns along the way. As a trained chef, he spent a long time making traditional costume belts on the side, first just for friends and relatives. Later he started exhibiting his items, including at the Central Agricultural Festival and Oktoberfest. Christian Fankhauser supplies his goods to Chiemgau in particular these days. He has been living off his quill embroidery work for 10 years now.

His customers have a range of requests. For example, Fankhauser has been asked to embroider a private chapel from a photo as well as a dachshund and even the BMW emblem. He advises people not to stray too far from tradition:

“I have to be sure that I will still be happy with it in 10 years’ time”.

After all, a traditional costume belt is embroidered for all eternity. Between 80 and 160 hours of work are invested. There is a trend towards more elaborate motifs and this is reflected in the price: customers pay an average of 2,500 to 4,200 euros for a traditional costume belt. And Christian Fankhauser can hardly keep up with the orders. “In general, I am always too slow,” he says, laughing.



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17 December 1966

'Official opening of the Hochfeld tow lift. This tow lift is 570m long with a height difference of 120m and can transport 720 skiers per hour. The completion of these facilities at a cost of approx. 800,000 schillings opened up a descent on the north side with guaranteed snow, ideal for weekend skiing courses and for the local skiing and school sports'.

(Extract from 'Das Schwoicher Dorfbuch'; Fritz Kirchmair, 1988)

*Weil Schifoan is' des Leiwandste**

Perhaps it is the remoteness of the location, the positioning of the piste surrounded by forests and meadows or the memories which make places like the Hochfeld lift in Schwoich so special.

Finally it's holiday time in Kufsteinerland. Many children can't wait to spend their days on skis, something which means the world to many winter sports fans. The 'Schwoicher Lift', as it is called by many locals, opens at 9:00 on the dot and is a winter playground for all the family.

Cosy & friendly

Far away from the big ski resorts in 'Amberg', a district of the community of Schwoich, is the Hochfeld lift. This tow lift was built in 1966 and has been part of the Skiwelt Wilder Kaiser Brixental for close to 5 years. This amalgamation led to snow

canons being installed in the area, ensuring that the slopes are always skiable. The latest technology paired with a traditional background. One thing this small ski resort has always been is cosy and friendly. The two descents can be seen from afar. One heads left from the point of departure down the steep slope and past the Bauernhof Hochfeld farm (hence the name of the lift) then along a flatter section to the valley station. Another leads through a short section of forest on the right side of the lift. After crossing the path of the lift in the bottom section, the piste surrounded by trees and bushes leads back down to the valley station.

* "Because skiing is the best"
Extract from the song 'Schifoan' by Wolfgang Ambros.



The magic 'wishing strings'

It is something of an insider game in Schwoich – the magic of the 'wishing strings'. Many people still remember this game of luck. Prior to the renovation of the lift and its brackets, there were a few orange and slightly pink cables alongside the numerous black cables attached to the brackets. Passengers who managed to grab one of these cables for the lift journey were able to make a wish. The wishes of the children would become rather demanding over the 10 minute lift trip!



Via the Witches' Trail to the Liftstüberl

There is a great deal to discover and experience in the 'finish area' and the youngest visitors in particular will find plenty to amuse them: a 'tyre carousel' enables beginners to try skis for the first time and a 'baby lift' with an attachment cable transports parents and children uphill a few metres. Colourful figures on the piste invite skiers to glide past and provide a playful introduction to slalom. For the braver guests, there have been some mysterious trails to explore away from the piste for the last few years: the 'Hexenweg' (witches' trail), 'Schanzenweg' (ski jump trail) and 'Bacherlweg' (brook trail) are just a few of them. Uphill and down dale, over roots, along specially prepared ski jumps and over small and partially icy brooks, the routes follow an adventurous path back down into the valley. Once there, it's time for a well-deserved break at the Liftstüberl where 'Kracherl' (fizzy pop), hot chocolate and 'Skiwasser' (raspberry juice with water) await the thirsty visitors. There are also plenty of snacks on offer: both sweet and savoury from nutty pastry twists to sausages and bread – mini skiing professionals are sure to find something they like here!

Just before 16:00, it's time for the 'last trip' of the day. One more time being transported quickly uphill before a lively end to the day as the sun sinks behind the Pendling near Thiersee. And so the day draws to an end for the family in the small yet refined ski resort of Schwoich. <<



Where families can weave their way down the pistes

Alongside the ski piste in Schwoich is another very popular ski resort for beginners and families in Kufsteinerland. The **Thiersee-Mitterland family ski centre** with two tow lifts and a practice lift is ideally situated at the foot of the Schneeberg.

Another treasure – the '**Haltjoch lift**' in **Hinterthiersee**. The Haltjoch lift transports skiers up to the top in the **Tirolina ski resort**. The practice lift makes use of the flat section of the slope in the lower section – the ideal place for those first turns in the snow. The black piste is FIS-approved, the ideal training route for professional training sessions. The Thierseer Hochtal valley is renowned for its snow certainty and artificial snow-making facilities offer hassle-free fun on the pistes.

The **Bad Häring and Langkampfen** in Kufsteinerland offer practice slopes where younger guests can learn the art of skiing for the first time. Based on the motto of 'The first step is easy', the ski schools in the individual resorts also run classes, making it easier for guests to learn to ski or pick up the sport again. <<



Cross-country made easy

at Schuler Sports in Schwoich

The cross-country paradise in Schwoich has its own cross-country ski school in addition to some beautiful kilometres of cross-country trails.

Cross-country skiing is a sport which is very popular at the moment. Probably because it is one of the healthiest sports, alongside swimming, given that it exercises so many of the body's muscles and at the same time protects the joints. It can also be undertaken at any age. It is easy to learn, like running. In addition to having the right materials, the optimal cross-country trails are essential. And these can be found in Schwoich.

Pure cross-country fun at the Schwoich Cross-country and Biathlon Centre.

The Schuler Sports Cross-country and Biathlon Ski School with hire facilities is located close to the Bierol Taproom (formerly the Stöfflbräu). The Cross-country and Biathlon Centre is also based here. Endless kilometres of cross-country trails set out from here and enable sports fans to explore the natural landscapes of Schwoich.

The trails have different difficulty ratings, meaning that there is something for both beginners and advanced skiers.

Learning from a professional – cross-country expert Franz Schuler

World Champion runner-up and 4-times Olympian Franz Schuler and his team offer private lessons and group courses in both classic and skating style cross-country at the resort's own Cross-Country Ski School. Most beginners to cross-country decide which technique they want to use right at the start of their training. The easiest way is to be shown by a professional and then try it for themselves so that they can quickly decide which they prefer.

Cross-country shop, cross-country ski service and hire

In addition to learning the right technique, the optimal materials also play an important part. Whether full cross-country equipment, the latest ski wax, matching accessories or the perfect clothing for going up and downhill, Schuler Sports provides cross-country fans with everything they could desire.

Our main store offers optimal advice and sales and our comprehensive assortment leaves no wish unfulfilled. Our ski hire service is based right by the cross-country trail and we also offer a professional cross-country ski service.



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Christmas in Bad Häring



The spa resort of Bad Häring is peaceful, simple and calm at Christmas. Christmas – the festival of love and family – is taken for granted by some but still something special for many. Christmas in the mountains has its own special magic – deep snow on the landscapes, green fir trees and a gentle open fire paired with original tradition. Every year on 24 December, people gather for a lantern walk in the centre of Bad Häring.

It slowly gets dark as the sun sinks behind the craggy edges of the Wilder Kaiser and people gather for a social get-together at the heart of the snowy winter landscape. Marianne Thaler has been in attendance for the last 30 years as co-founder of the event and says with pride: "In 1985, we contemplated speeding up the wait before the present opening for guests and locals alike on Christmas Eve and giving those living alone the chance to come together with others at Christmas".

And so the idea of the lantern (previously the torch-lit) walk to the Lindbühlkreuz was born. The location has changed but the tradition remains the same.

'Every year'

Every year, people gather at 17:00 at the local Kufsteinerland tourist office. From here, they carry lanterns towards the spa centre and park. Brass bands from the

'Knappenmusikkapelle Bad Häring' group create a cosy atmosphere with old Christmas carols. Traditional Tyrolean 'Kluawabrot' fruit bread with butter is also served to reinforce the tradition. This bread, made from wheat and rye flour with fruit, has been made here for centuries and is also called 'Kletzenbrot' or 'Zelten'. The bread today is often formed into loaves but in the past was produced in different shapes and decorated, 'smoked' and sprinkled with holy water. The 'Kluawabrot' was sliced by the 'father of the house', the farmer. Shaped breads represent happiness, health and fertility which is why they are still given out today as gifts on special occasions.

The first notes of 'Silent Night, Holy Night' ring out and it falls silent around the small lake in the spa park. A special moment on a special day in Kufsteinerland. Time to contemplate and reflect back on the events of the past year; time for thanks and time for wishes and dreams.



Tyrolean “Kluawabrot”

(fruit bread)

Ingredients:

Bread dough: 500g wheat, 500g rye flour, 1 tbsp salt and 2 tsp bread spices (coriander, caraway and fennel)

Outer dough: 300g wheat flour, 10g yeast, pinch of salt, sugar and luke-warm water. Water to sprinkle on top and fat to grease the tin.

Fruit: 1 kg raisins, 300g dried pears and 300g dried figs, 200g candied orange peel and 200g hazelnuts, 1 tbsp cinnamon, 1 tbsp lebkuchen spices, 60 ml rum, lemon juice and zest

Preparation:

To make the fruit mix, wash the raisins, boil the pears briefly in hot water and then leave to infuse for 30 mins. Then chop the pears, figs and candied orange peel into small pieces and mix with the remaining ingredients. Leave the mix to infuse overnight.

For the bread dough, mix the wheat and rye flour in a bowl, add the salt and bread spices, make an indentation in the middle of the flour mix, add the yeast, sprinkle the sugar on top and mix in the luke warm water. Leave the wet mix covered for 30 minutes, knead with the remaining water to form a dough then leave covered for another hour.

Form one large and two smaller loaves from the mix and leave to stand for another 30 minutes on a cloth dusted with flour. The outer dough should be made in the same way as the bread dough but without any rye flour. Roll out with a rolling pin and sprinkle with water in the middle. Then place the fruit bread dough in the middle of the outer dough and cover with the outer dough. Place on a greased baking tray and cover with a cloth. Leave to stand for 15 minutes. Make deep holes into the bread using a pointed knife, sprinkle with water and bake for 90 minutes at 180 degrees.



Simple food, original tradition

One special feature of the spa town of Bad Häring is undoubtedly its wooden nativity in the town centre with life-sized wooden figures which is particularly popular with children.

A Christmas walk usually leads past this spot as well as attracting numerous visitors to the local mining museum. There is a genuine 'Tyrolean mining nativity' here from the first weekend in Advent. The nativity is carefully made by hand and presents the story of Christmas including the birth of Christ as well as the hard work undertaken by the local miners in the tunnels of the local mountain for which Bad Häring became famous.

While a traditional Christmas goose is customary in most of Austria, in Bad Häring a simple noodle soup with sausage is often the dish of choice. This Christmas dish has been served on Christmas Eve for decades and is just as much a part of Tyrol's Christmas tradition as 'Rauhnächte' (Twelfth Night) and the distribution of the Light of Peace. As twilight begins to fall on Christmas Eve, people head to their local church with their family to bring the Light of Peace back home with them with a lantern.

The small flame is distributed using simple lighters and is then used to set the four flames of the Advent wreath alight back at home. In many households, this is also the time to pray the rosary, sing Christmas carols or read out some reflective texts among one's nearest and dearest.

The 'incense ritual' then begins. Traditionally, glowing coals from the oven and incense are placed on an old iron, the children of the house are given holy water and fir tree branches and then people move from room to room, saying traditional prayers. This original tradition is said to protect the home and its inhabitants and to bring good fortune and blessings for the coming year.

Christmas gifts are then handed out in the cosy lounge, indicated by the ringing of a bell to signal the arrival of Baby Jesus. Everyone gathers around the colourfully decorated Christmas tree and the sounds of 'Silent Night, Holy Night' can be heard emanating from many households.



Bad Häring Christmas nativity

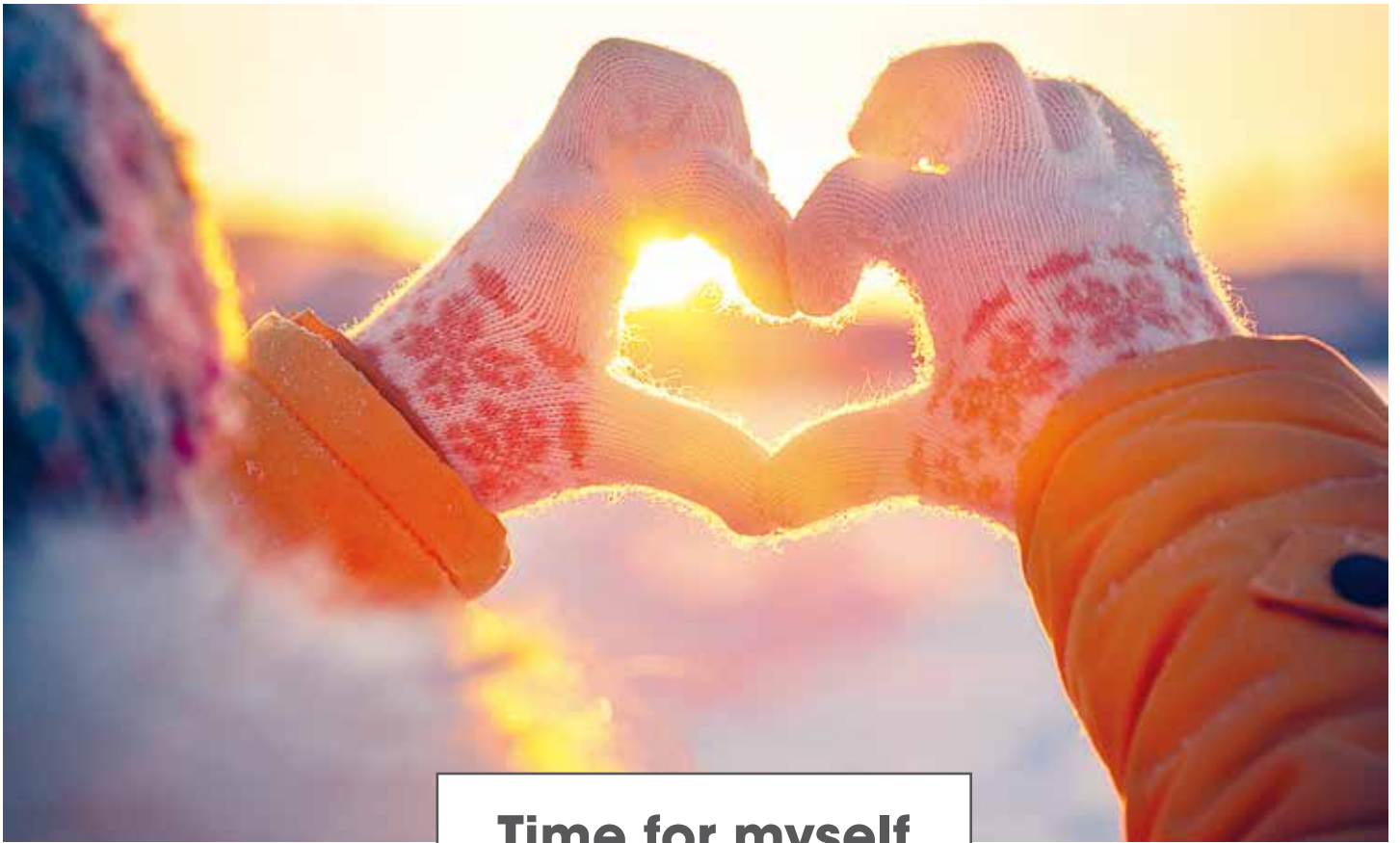
10 Dec. 2017 / 14:00

A small Christmas market around the Kirchplatz square and at the primary school, a nativity exhibition, a crafts market, numerous other culinary treats and a pastoral play await visitors.

Bad Häring nativity walk

1 Dec. 2017 to 2 Feb. 2018 / 16:00

Based on an ancient Tyrolean nativity tradition, this walk takes you through the former mining town and current spa town of Bad Häring.



Time for myself

Health week

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A new place for old traditions

The Kalvarienberg in Erl

It is hard to imagine that the passion play in Erl dates back 400 years. Close to the 'Comedihüttn', where the Easter play was one staged, is a path which leads to the Kalvarienberg. And just like the passion play, the whole village has helped to make this a special place.



A walk with drive

A walk with drive

The 14 stations on the Way of the Cross take walkers from the bridge in Scheiben/Erl along a beautiful trail on the Kalvarienberg and along a loop back to the start. The walk takes around an hour but can take longer if you stop to admire the works of art in more detail. The route is brought to life by symbolic images and brings calm and inner peace, especially in the winter landscape.



It is easy to forget the stresses of everyday life here at the heart of this white wintry landscape.



Travelling from Kufstein through Erl towards Bavaria, it seems somewhat strange that the **passion playhouse** in the district of Mühlgraben is at the start of the town and the **Kalvarienberg**, in the district of Scheiben, is at the other end of town. It's almost as if the people of Erl deliberately built up all-round protection against plague, war and looting. The history of this is, however, much simpler than you might think. It starts at the 'end', in the district of Scheiben. When you pass the town sign and then cross over a green bridge, after 100 m you will see the dilapidated and partly worn away 'Comedihütt'n' on the left where the Erl passion play was once performed in the past. In 1912/13, the decision was made to replace the theatre with a new playhouse because it was constantly under threat from flooding by the Trockenbach brook and was much too small – the Erl passion play had become very popular. Thanks to the dedication of Erl's local community, a new playhouse was built 50m further towards the slope, seating up to 1,500 people. >>



About Erl

Erl is the northernmost community in Tyrol, is situated on the state border with Bavaria and borders onto the Inn river which leaves the state of Tyrol here. Some 1,450 inhabitants live in Erl. It is suspected that its location on the navigable river Inn led to it becoming a world-famous pilgrimage site and passion play venue. In 2013, the passion play celebrated its 400th anniversary. Yet the roots of the community probably date back to the 18th century BC.

Many thanks to Erl's chronicler Peter Kitzbichler for his expertise, documents and time.



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Tyrol Festival Erl Winter 2017 / 2018



Opening Concert
Brahms-Double I
26 December 2017

Contemporary Double
Ensemble Risognanze
27 December 2017
28 December 2017

Giacomo Puccini
La Bohème
29 December 2017
6 January 2018

Gioacchino Rossini
Il barbiere di Siviglia
30 December 2017
5 January 2018

New Year's Eve Concert
31 December 2017

New Year's Day Concert
1 January 2018

Hahn sings Kreisler
3 January 2018

Russian Christmas
4 January 2018

Closing Concert
Brahms-Double II
7 January 2018

Tickets & Information:
T 0043 81000 20
www.tiroler-festspiele.at

Erl Passion Play House



A new way

The new Way of the Cross on the Kalvarienberg starts out from the old 'Comedihüttln', right by the bridge in Scheiben and instigated by the former Christ performer Erwin Trainer. 14 solid serpentine stones donated by sponsors and supporters and put in place by volunteers depict the sufferings of Christ on images behind glass. The modern, simple and expressive images were designed by internationally renowned artist Anton Christian.



View of Erl from the Kalvarienberg.



About the artist Anton Christian

Anton Christian was born in Innsbruck in 1940. He attended Innsbruck's school of art and crafts from 1954 to 1958 and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. His works have been exhibited in numerous museums and universities across the USA, Austria, Germany, France and Switzerland. He also designed the poster marking the 400th anniversary of the passion play.

www.antonchristian.com



Home of passion plays and festivals

During the night of 18th to 19th July 1933, a fire destroyed the passion play house in Scheiben along with all the props and costumes. It was then reopened in 1959 after the end of the Second World War – this time at the Kreuzbühel in Mühlgraben where it remains today. It has now become world-famous and since 1998 has been home to the Tyrol Festival in Erl. So that's how the Kalvarienberg with its Way of the Cross and passion play house became situated at the other end of the town. <<



The history of the passion play

The passion plays are derived from the mystery and Easter plays which have a long-standing tradition in the Alpine region. Locals unable to read or write were able to learn about the teachings of Jesus Christ through these performances.

When the population was under threat from war and plague during the 16th and 17th centuries, the plays remained very popular and were said to be protected by God. They were initially performed during Easter but this was soon pushed back to the warmer summer season and they now take place once every 6 years. The first passion plays were held in the play barn ('Comedihüttn'). At that time, there were lots of hammer and nail-makers as well as devout farmers and boatmen living in Erl due to its proximity to the river Inn. It was also at that time that Erl became a popular pilgrimage destination because it was practical for many people to reach, being situated right by the river Inn.

The next passion plays in Erl will take place in 2019.

Einzigartige Saunalandschaft auf rund 1.500 m²

www.hallodu.at

Funarena Hallo du, Gießenweg 20, A-6341 Ebbs

Lessons in a not-so-ordinary schoolhouse

56 years may not sound like a lot. But witnesses from the time speak of the 'Reit am Berg' school and how much has changed now. 'Moments' met with the last teacher and head of the old primary school and discussed his first years working at this mountain school on the Niederndorferberg.



Portrait of Norbert Stadler

Once the teachers at the 'Reit am Berg' primary school had started leaving every 2 years, Norbert Stadler decided in the summer of 1961 to take over as head and teacher at the school. "Finding it on my own was difficult. It looked more like a chapel than a school building," the former teacher recalls. Then aged 21, he acquired the schoolhouse and moved in with the family of the school caretaker and another teacher. As a teacher, Norbert Stadler lived here for free and with free heating. Farmers provided him with firewood in place of a municipal tax. Water for the inhabitants and school pupils to wash in and drink was available only from an outside fountain trough. "As you can imagine, when the fountain iced up in winter, having a wash in the morning was certainly refreshing!" says Norbert Stadler. A simple outhouse toilet was also available.

Back in demand

Teaching methods which were normal back then are being applied again today. It was referred to as 'combination lessons' when children from several stages of teaching were taught together. Today, we call it Montessori. Norbert Stadler's class contained 43 pupils between grade 4 and grade 8. Whenever Norbert Stadler was explaining something to one of the pupils, the others had to work quietly. The advantage of this is that every pupil heard the same content at least three times and therefore the pupils had a very solid knowledge base. The quiet work sometimes involved coping things off one of the two boards – a movable wooden board or a board on the wall which could not be used in winter due to the damp.

Humble conditions

Since there were plans for a new schoolhouse, cut-backs were made on the repairs. This gave rise to various unusual features. The large classroom with three windows contained slanting benches for four pupils and broken window panes were simply boarded up. The room was heated with two old tiled stoves of a somewhat questionable condition. Often the warmth emitted by the tiled stoves was not sufficient to keep pupils warm. "The children wore winter clothing and gloves during class," says Norbert Stadler. Some children also had to complete a long journey to school beforehand on a sledge, skis or on foot through snow half a metre deep. Lessons were only cancelled on extremely cold and snowy days when there were only a few children present. The chapel bell would chime and convey this message across the mountains to the widely scattered farms – and no doubt the children were pleased to hear this news.



Norbert Stadler's class contained 43 children.



“Old School”



The 'new' school which was built in 1965.



Chronology of the 'Reit am Berg' school by current head Gotthard Aniser:

- ✓ Up until 1838, the lessons were given by the farmers in Unterreith.
- ✓ The new schoolhouse was completed in 1849/50 and is still sublet today.
- ✓ The current school was built in 1965 and currently has 27 pupils.
- ✓ Divided into one class with 1st and 2nd grade pupils and a second class with 3rd and 4th grade pupils. This means that one teacher has to teach two grades at the same time.

From winter to summer school

After the first winter, Norbert Stadler switched the full-day 'winter school' with no lessons on Thursday to a half-day 'summer school', as was standard across the country at that time. And so the concept of the all-day school (now back in demand) was abandoned. However the daily walk to school did have its advantages. The lower grades often used slates with a sponge and pencil and so sometimes homework written in the pencil would disappear. "Of course, as a teacher you had to be understanding of that," Norbert Stadler grins.

Prospects of improvement

Many of Norbert Stadler's colleagues saw the remote school and dilapidated schoolhouse as a place of punishment. But not so Norbert Stadler. "I never felt it was that way. Every year was an unforgettable and pleasant time for me, whether in the old or new schoolhouse, thanks to the nice children and parents, the friendly community leaders and the beautiful sunny location". It took many years for the pupils at the 'Reit am Berg' school to move to a new school building.

Two years after the move, Norbert Stadler made his way down into the valley. He became head of the newly founded Niederndorf secondary school and retired from here. However, he still has fond memories of his time at 'Reit am Berg'. <<

Pupils often made their way to school on skis instead of by car.





Sledging fun at the Aschinger Alm

Experiences, recuperation, refreshments and pleasure

Relax and slow down at the heart of the Tyrolean meadows and mountains.

The Aschinger Alm Alpine guesthouse blends in perfectly with the dreamy Alpine landscape at an altitude of 1000m, a real paradise for winter hikers, sledgers and skiers. This is the perfect place to escape the stresses of everyday life, set your soul free and savour nature.

Cuisine, fun & recuperation

Regional delights, made in our own kitchens, complete with friendly service enable you to enjoy a wonderful day and our home-made cakes set pulses racing.

The Aschinger Alm also offers plenty of variety for younger guests e.g. in the large playroom in the cellar of the guesthouse which can be accessed by slide.

In good weather, the sun terrace is the ideal place to relax while on cooler days, the cosy lounges and bar with a fireplace are the perfect spot. The new multi-functional conservatory is equipped with the latest presentation, sound and information systems and is suitable for seminars, celebrations and events.

Sledging fun for all the family

The Aschinger Alm natural toboggan run is a fantastically located, wide family toboggan run with a pleasantly steep incline and suitable for all ages. The wide track offers a speedy descent down into the valley with nothing to stop you enjoying the sledging experience. We are particularly proud that our natural toboggan run has won the State of Tyrol's Quality Seal for Natural Toboggan Runs for the second time. Free sledge hire is available.

Our own Alpine cheese dairy and farm store

At our own Alpine cheese dairy and farm store, you can sample the quality of the produce yourself and purchase dairy products, our award-winning specialities and other treats such as Tyrolean bacon, smoked sausages, Alpine salami, honey, schnapps and much more.

For more information, see the website www.aschingeralm.at and facebook.com/aschingeralm.



Picture credit: Aschinger Alm, Alp Line, Shutterstock CandyBox Images



Alpine guesthouse & Alpine cheese dairy Aschinger Alm

Alpengasthof Aschinger Alm, family Ritzler
Oberbuchberg 34a, 6341 Ebbs/Tirol
Tel.: +43 5373 431 08 | E-Mail: info@aschingeralm.at
Opening times: Sun - Mon 9:00 to 18:00 and
Weds to Sat 9:00 to 23:00, closed on Tuesdays



From the ice track to the workshop

Georg Fluckinger has been producing his own sledges for leisure use for over three decades. During the mid-1980s, the former professional sportsman and Olympic medal winner made the leap to self-employment and transformed his passion into his profession. Today his traditional business in Langkampfen is one of the biggest and most successful in the industry.

There is a hint of 'grandpa's workshop' in the air when Georg Fluckinger opens the door to his sacred space. On entering the workshops of the sledging manufacturer, the typical scent of cut wood is immediately striking.

A quick glance around leaves no doubt that sledges are made here. A few snapshots of times gone by are dotted around the walls – champagne, medals and trophies are reminiscent of a golden age.

Today he is no longer involved in professional sports but instead leads the way in the sledge-building sector. From mini-sledges for children aged 4 and over to special models for riders with physical disabilities and sporty two-seater models, there is something to suit every requirement.

His motto: less is more. The individual elements are extremely straightforward: runners, connectors and crossbars made from ash, blades made from stainless steel and a seat in robust tarpaulin. A few nuts and bolts fix the parts in place and the sledge is ready! "It doesn't need anything more than that if the parts are of high quality," says Fluckinger

with conviction. Taking account of the preparatory work, each sledge takes around 7 hours of work to produce.

The right wood is crucial

The most important element of a good sledge is undoubtedly the wood used. There is only one choice for a stable and flexible sledge: the common ash. It is characterised by its elasticity and robust structure. The wood also does not warp very much at all across the many slats. Since hardwoods are relatively rare at our latitudes, the wood is sourced largely from Salzkammergut and the region around Rosenheim. A quality sledge can last for more than 30 winters if looked after properly. If the wood is finely tuned with the rest of the components, the sledge is easy to direct. Paired with the right technique and appropriate clothing, especially sturdy shoes, there is nothing to stop you enjoying plenty of sledging fun! <<

Georg Fluckinger has been producing sledges in Langkampfen for over 30 years.



Around 7 hours of work are invested in each sledge.



Wood is undoubtedly the most important element in a good sledge.

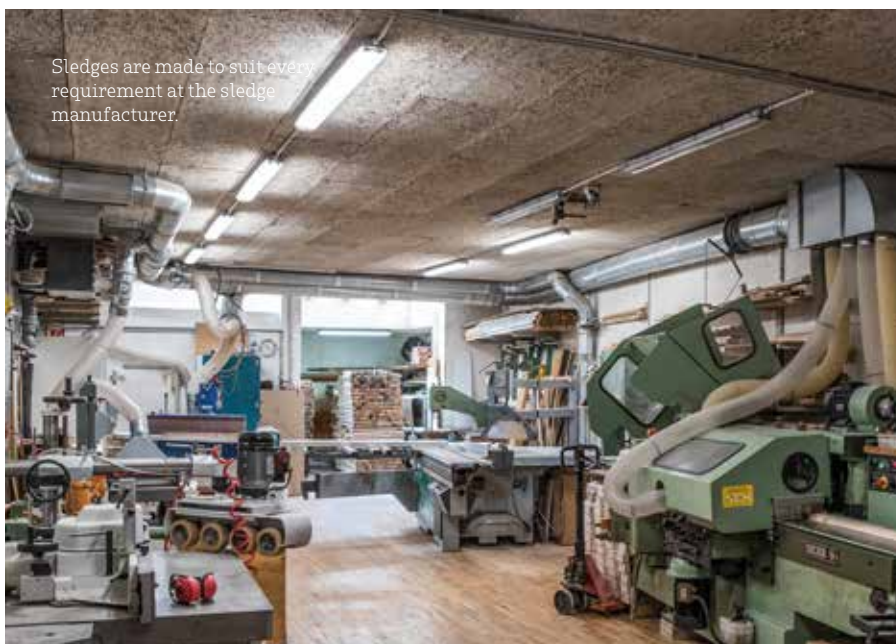


Lake Placid - 1980 Sarajevo - 1984 Calgary - 1988

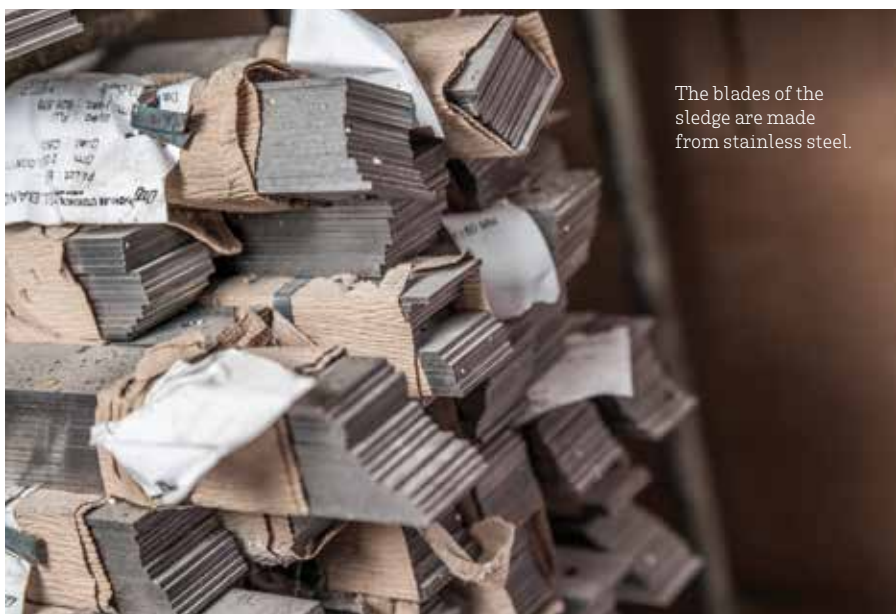
Georg Fluckinger has taken part in the Winter Olympics three times in the luge competition. Right at the start of his Olympics career, he caused a stir at Lake Placid, winning the bronze. Four years later in Yugoslavia, he did even better. A leading edge of two tenths and dreams of gold. However an error on the last bend destroyed his chances of victory and Fluckinger found himself in an unthinkable fourth place at just 15 thousandths behind. Then in 1981/82 he came out as the overall winner in the World Cup. His expertise is still in demand today in modern sledging sports: he was an advisor at the Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014, for example.



Georg Fluckinger took part in three Olympic Games and won a bronze medal.



Sledges are made to suit every requirement at the sledge manufacturer.



The blades of the sledge are made from stainless steel.



Sledging experience *Kala Alm*

The walk to the Kala Alm in Thiersee offers an all-round successful sledging experience. When the first snowflakes to cover the ground, the Kala is transformed into a paradise for sledgers. The 3 km route is perfectly prepared every day whenever there is sufficient snowfall. A snow groomer creates the optimal conditions early in the morning as the first motivated sledgers are making their ascent up the mountain. Starting out from the Gasthof Schneeberg, the route weaves its way up over 390m altitude through romantic woodland clearings to a plateau where the rustic Kara Alm awaits guests with beautiful panoramic views. Below the Pendling are fantastic views of the surrounding mountains. The Kala itself is a real insider tip. Once at the guesthouse, sledgers can savour a warm cheese dumpling soup and the famous Kala roast pork. Or enjoy a quick home-made coffee and cake before heading off down the 3,5 km of the illuminated toboggan run.



Kala Alm winter opening times

Tuesday to Saturday:
9:00 until 24:00, food served until 21:00
Sunday: 9:00 until 19:00, food served until 18:00
Closed on Mondays
(except public holidays)

Toboggan runs – an overview

Kufstein:

Aschenbrenner toboggan run

Walk time: 1 hour
Track length: 3.2 km
Lighting: no
Sledge hire: yes

Hinterdux toboggan run

Walk time: 30 minutes
Track length: 2.5 km
Lighting: no
Sledge hire: yes

Ebbs:

Aschingeralm natural toboggan run

Walk time: 1.5 hours
Track length: 5.2 km
Lighting: no
Sledge hire: yes

Niederndorf:

Hegender toboggan run

Walk time: 45 minutes
Track length: 1.2 km
Lighting: no
Sledge hire: no

Thiersee:

Mariandlalm toboggan run

Walk time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Track length: 3 km
Lighting: no
Sledge hire: no

Wieshof toboggan run

Walk time: 30 minutes
Track length: 1 km
Lighting: yes
Sledge hire: yes

Langkampfen:

Windschnur toboggan run

Walk time: 20 minutes
Track length: 2 km
Lighting: no
Sledge hire: no



If you love your sledge ...

...look after it! After the descent, you should ensure that the blades are wiped dry to prevent rust. Back at home, liquid wax should be applied for optimal protection. The sledge should ideally be stored upright in a dry place until its next use.

Simply captivating: Advent in Kufsteinerland

In the Kaisergebirge mountains in Kufsteinerland, Tyrolean customs are paired with a unique backdrop, anticipation of Christmas, culinary delights and fantastic experiences for children. Wide-ranging programmes at various locations ensure a peaceful Advent.



Christmas Magic at Kufstein fortress

25.11.2017 - 26.11.2017
02.12.2017 - 03.12.2017
09.12.2017 - 10.12.2017
16.12.2017 - 17.12.2017

'Class not masses' is the secret to the success of the Winter Magic fair at the historic fortress in Kufstein: in these busy times, it is characterised by its commitment to originality and beautifully illuminated walls which are far from the usual Christmas kitsch and glitter. Regional exhibitors offer traditional crafts and delicious Tyrolean specialities at close to 30 stands while brass bands and traditional performers get visitors in the Christmas spirit outside. The cosy warm lounges in the fortress invite guests to linger for a while. Younger visitors are also in good hands at the Christmas bakery and crafts workshop.



Extra date: 08.12.2017

On Friday 08 December 2017, the fortress will be open until 20:00 with its museums and Christmas Magic in the outside area incl. mulled wine, music and a children's programme. The Christmas stands will be closed.

Christmas market at the Stadtpark Kufstein

24.11. - 23.12.2017

The Christmas market in the Stadtpark impresses with its cuisine: Tyrolean treats such as Zillertaler Krapfen (doughnuts), Kiachl (fried pastries) and Blattln (stuffed pastries) with cabbage are served here alongside various kinds of punch and mulled wine. And the market offers lots of unforgettable experiences for the youngsters too: trips on the romantic tourist train, pony rides (at weekends), baking bread on a stick over the campfire and listening to the Christmas tales of the mountain storyteller.



Ebbs Haflinger Advent

02.-03.12.2017 / 08.-10.12.2017
Ebbs stud farm

Advent music, mulled wine, spiced lebkuchen and Tyrolean treats are served up before the beautiful backdrop of the Kaisergebirge mountains. And of course, the focus is on the gentle Haflinger horses at the World Haflinger Centre in Ebbs.



Additional event highlights

Saturday 18.11 – Sunday 17.12.2017

World of Christmas Hödnerhof Ebbs

The creative team at the Hödnerhof Flower World use endless material to create detailed and colourful creations which touch the senses and bring a touch of style to the home at this peaceful time of year.

Local craftworkers and artists are also on hand to offer their own hand-made pieces. This area is open from 10:00 – 18:00.

Wednesday 29.11, 6.12, 13.12, 20.12

Mountain storyteller

Christmas stories for the younger visitors
Stadtpark Kufstein, 17:00

Friday 24.11, 28.11 – 30.11, 5.12 – 8.12, 12.12 – 14.12, 19.12 – 21.12.2017

Children's smithery at the Stadtpark Christmas market

Stadtpark Kufstein, 13:00
Children get an introduction to blacksmithing here. Great fun – and fun to watch too!

Thursday 30.11, 7.12, 14.12, 21.12.2017

Advent winter walk to the Thierbergkapelle chapel

Kufstein, 10:30 to approx. 14:30
Registration: by 16:30 the day beforehand at the latest at the Kufsteinerland tourist office!
From 4 people!



Saturday 2.12, 9.12, 16.12, 23.12, 28.12.2017, 4.1, 6.1.2018

The power and mysticism of incense

Thiersee, 15:00 to approx. 17:30
Registration: by 16:30 the day beforehand at the latest at the Kufsteinerland tourist office!
From 4 people!

Saturday 25.11.2017

Country Christmas

Hödnerhof Ebbs, 19:00

**Friday 1.12, 8.12,
15.12, 22.12.2017**

Walk: The power of the heart to a peaceful Advent

Thiersee information office, 10:00 to 13:00
Registration: by 16:30 the day beforehand at the latest at the Kufsteinerland tourist office!
From 4 people!

**Friday 1.12, 8.12,
15.12, 22.12.2017**

Night watchman tour of Kufstein in Advent

'Unterer Stadtplatz' at the 'Marienbrunnen' fountain, 21:00 to approx. 22:30
Registration: by 16:30 the day beforehand at the latest at the Kufsteinerland tourist office!
From 4 people!



**Friday 1.12, 8.12,
22.12.2017, 5.1.2018**

Bad Häring nativity walk

Bad Häring information office, 16:00 to approx. 18:00
Registration: by 16:30 the day beforehand at the latest at the Kufsteinerland tourist office!
From 4 people!

Saturday 2.12, 16.12.2017

Christmas bakery

Kufstein Galerien, 11:00 to 16:00
Baking and decorating biscuits with children

Advent Bazaar

Erl parish centre, 14:00

Sunday 3.12.2017

Ebbs parish Christmas Bazaar

Multi-purpose hall at the school centre, 8:00

Monday 4.12.2017

Alpine Christmas characters

Hinterthiersee, 16:00



Tuesday 5.12.2017

Father Christmas is coming

Kufstein Galerien, 13:00 to 16:30

Father Christmas procession

Eisschützenhalle car park Niederndorf, 14:00

Arrival of Father Christmas

Ebbs village centre (Maibaumplatz), 14:00

Father Christmas procession

Stadtpark Kufstein, 17:00

Father Christmas procession

Fire station forecourt Erl, 17:00
Arrival of Father Christmas 18:00

Father Christmas procession

Music pavilion on the Thiersee, 19:00

Thursday 7.12.2017

Folk songs and reading (Advent carols)

VIVEA Health Centre, 19:30

Friday 8.12. / 9.12.2017

Children's fairy-tale – Beauty and the Beast

Multi-purpose room Schwoich (8.12. / 14:00)
Kulturhaus Kufstein (9.12. / 14:00+16:00)

Advent at the Messerschmied

A peaceful and reflective Advent event awaits visitors at the Brenneerei Messerschmied distillery Ebbs, 14:00

Saturday 9.12.2017

Craft session

Christmas gifts and musical accompaniment by the Wildschönau gospel choir (from 13:00). Kufstein Galerien, 11:00 to 16:00

Retreat day at Advent

Exerzitienhaus Maria Hilf Kufstein, 9:00 – 17:00

Town Christmas

Stadtsaal Kufstein, 19:30
Christmas music by the 'Jungen Thierseern' and 'Hoameligen' bands

Sunday 12.12.17

Peaceful Advent

Niederndorf parish church, 16:00

Thursday 14.12.2017

Advent shopping evening

Shops in Kufstein open until 22:00. Christmas supporting programme.



Saturday 16.12.2017

Christmas gathering at the museum

'Alte Schmiede' local history museum, 16:00

Christmas folk music

Gasthof Wildbichl, Niederndorferberg, 20:00

Retreat day at Advent

Exerzitienhaus Maria Hilf Kufstein, 9:00 to 17:00

Sunday 17.12.17

Zommkemma at Advent

Organised by the Sängerrunde Schwoich, Theaterunde Schwoich and BMK Schwoich music pavilion, 16:00

Christmas oratorio I-VI

Tyrol Festival Erl, 11:00

Thiersee Christmas market

Christmas music, horse-drawn sledge rides, children's programme, culinary delights and crafts at the stands of the local associations. Thiersee, 14:00

Advent carols by the Sängerrunde Ebbs

Ebbs parish church, 19:00



Saturday 23.12.2017

Craft session

Christmas gifts
Kufstein Galerien, 11:00 to 16:00

Sunday 24.12.2017

Waiting for Baby Jesus

Niederndorf, 'Alte Schmiede' local history museum, after the Children's Mass (approx. 17:00)

Tuesday 26.12.2017

Christmas tree auction by the Bundesmusikkapelle Schwoich

Multi-purpose down, community of Schwoich, 10:00

Boxing Day

Hotel Thaler Hinterthiersee, 20:00

Thursday 28.12.2017 to Saturday 6.1.2018

Nativity scene

Rathausaal Kufstein, 10:00 to 18:00



Saturday 30.12.2017

New Year incense ritual

Thiersee, 15:00

New Year's Eve at the abbey

Exerzitienhaus Maria Hilf, 18:00

PROJECT Pre-New Year's Eve celebrations in Ebbs

Freisinger Holzbau Neubau, 19:30

Pre-New Year's Eve snow festival

Hager lift Mitterland, 19:30

Pre-New Year's Eve fireworks in Kufstein

Town centre restaurants open



Sunday 31.12.2017

Together not alone

'Alte Schmiede' local history museum, 15:00

New Year's Eve party with traditional music

Vorderkaiserfelden Hütte

New Year's Eve concert

Tyrol Festival in Erl, 18:00

Music and dance

Sattlerwirt Ebbs, 19:00

Monday 1.1.2018

New Year concert (matinee)

Tyrol Festival in Erl, 11:00

New Year's snow festival

Thiersee, 19:00

Thursday 4.1.2018

Russian Christmas

Tyrol Festival in Erl, 18:00

Friday 5.1.2018

Festival of 1000 Lights

Kufstein, 16:30



Christmas tree auction by the Sängerrunde Schwoich

Gasthaus Neuwirt in Schwoich, 20:00

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