

# SKIGASTEIN

## Mountain Views

www.skigastein.com

Issue 18 · 2024/2025



## Great runs and no end in sight

### THE NORD RUN AND THE INFINITY RUN: WINTER SPORTS (ALMOST) WITHOUT LIMITS

Skigastein is the highest skiing area in the Ski amadé region. Being so high up means you can always be sure of snow. But there's more to it.

**W**hen you're right at the top and look down at the snowy valley, you get an inkling that there are some of the longest runs round here. For instance, there's the legendary Nord Run (North Run) in Bad Hofgastein, stretching over 10 km and with 1,441 metres difference in altitude.

For a really tough challenge, you might want to try the two long valley runs from Schlossalm. One of them leads into the Angertal valley, providing a convenient link to the neighbouring Stubnerkogel. And once you're there, you can choose between two routes all the way down to the bottom. A real treat for all skiing enthusiasts, where you'll soon forget all your physical exertion as you glide down perfectly groomed slopes and take in the breathtaking views that unfold before you. In all, you can look forward to a vertical drop of over 4,000 metres – aptly named the “Skigastein Infinity Loop”.

Continue on pages 4 and 5 >

#### PAGE 2

### A full programme

With the Skigastein weekly programme, you can discover something new every day. Our options range from snowshoe hiking to ski safaris and early morning skiing. *Mountain Views* has all the essential information about the activities on offer.

#### PAGE 6

### Great flexibility

Winter sports enthusiasts are flexible – and so are our Gastein cable cars, run by Gasteiner Bergbahnen. If you want to take it easy or are short of time, an hourly ticket might be a great alternative to a day pass. Worried about getting stuck on the mountain with an expired ticket? No need to be!

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### Celebrity Guests

In our new video series #skigastein CONNECTS, freerider Sandra Lahnsteiner will show you the natural beauty of the Gastein Valley. She'll be accompanied by celebrity guests such as Bernhard Gruber, Olympic champion in Nordic combined.



# Gastein connects



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

## Dear Guest,

In our beautiful Gastein Valley, the winter of 2024/2025 is all about connections. Especially the ones we want to create. Gastein is truly magical. It draws winter sports enthusiasts and anyone looking to recharge their batteries in natural surroundings that are authentic, unique and sustainable. We can make your wish come true. So do please use this opportunity and connect with other visitors. You'll soon realise how much shared interests can bring people together.

In this 18<sup>th</sup> edition of *Mountain Views*, we'll also explore connections between the mountains. One of the highlights in our ski area is the "Skigastein Infinity Loop". Situated between Bad Hofgastein and Bad Gastein, there are two summits and four spectacular downhill runs with a vertical drop of well over 4,000 metres. Fittingly, our freeride champion Sandra Lahnsteiner is also building connections. In her video series #skigastein CONNECTS, she descends the Gastein slopes with several celebrity colleagues, drawing out quite a few secrets from Julia Mancuso and others.

Other interesting topics in our newspaper include a new, exciting weekly programme, our ground-breaking "Skigastein 2030" project, some new ticket options and a few highlights from our calendar of events. We're delighted that you're coming to our Gastein Valley, and we hope you'll enjoy *Mountain Views* and, above all, that you'll have an unforgettable stay.

With our very best wishes from Gastein,

**Andreas Innerhofer**

Andreas Innerhofer  
Chief Executive Officer, Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG



# A perfect week in Skigastein

**A FRESH THRILL EVERY DAY AND  
A NEW WAY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE**

Let the new weekly programme of Gasteiner Bergbahnen inspire you to connect with the Gastein Valley in all its facets. We've had a close look at the various regular highlights and put together a perfect week for you in Skigastein.

### Monday, 13:00 hrs: Ski Safari

The best way to start the week in Gastein is to explore the skiing slopes. However, this isn't easy as the area is quite vast. When you join the Ski Safari on a Monday, our experienced guide, Hans Naglmayr (see interview) will show you the most beautiful slopes and some lovely cosy chalets in the valley. You'll meet at top station of the Schlossalmbahn lift.

16.12. - 18.01.

**Info and registration:**  
Skiing School Bad Hofgastein  
+43 6432 6339



© Gasteiner Tourismus GmbH, Christoph Obereschneider

### Tuesday, 16:30 hrs: Scenic Walk by Torchlight

On Tuesday, don't miss the chance to hop on the shuttle bus from the Raiffeisen car park in Bad Gastein to Schachengut, where you'll be taken on a scenic winter walk by torchlight. The walk will culminate in a three-course meal with an aperitif.

17.12. - 18.05.

except 24.12. and 31.12.

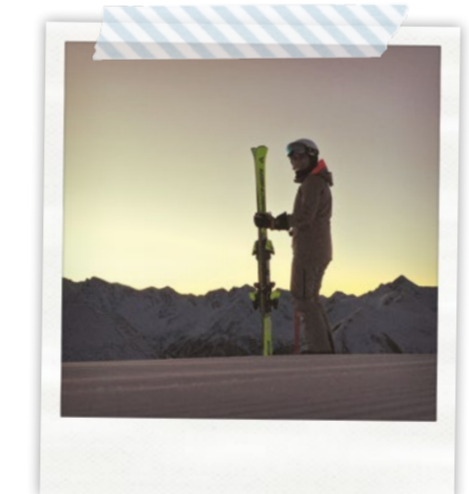
**Info and registration:**  
Graukogelalm  
+43 664 9930712

### Wednesday, 7:15 hrs in January and 7:00 in February: Early Morning Skiing

As the Walk by Torchlight finishes at around 9:00 pm, it'll be easy the next morning to turn up on time for Early Morning Skiing. If you're determined and an early bird, you can meet up at the base stations of the Stubnerkogel and Schlossalmbahn lifts for an ascent of over 2,000 metres to enjoy the sunrise at the top. Skiers will love the subsequent descent on freshly groomed slopes, followed by some good conversations over brunch at 9:30 am.

08.01. - 26.02.

**Register via our online shop:**  
skigastein.skiperformance.com



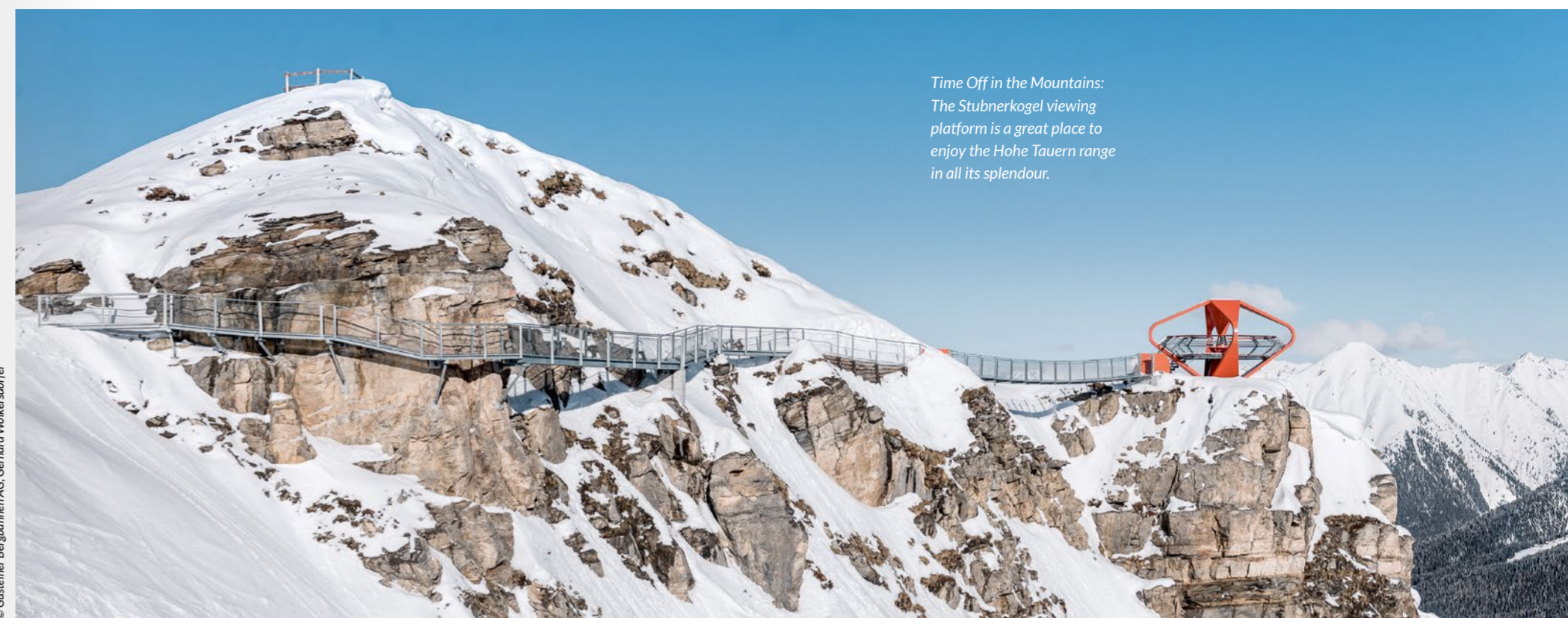
© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

### Thursday, 10:00 hrs: Summit View Winter Walk

Fancy a little breather? Then you'll love our Summit View Winter Walk, led by our mountain guide, Theresa Sommerbichler around the Schlossalm – complete with breathing exercises, mindfulness breaks and walking meditations. Look forward to a wonderfully relaxing experience.

02.01. - 27.05.

**Register via our online shop:**  
skigastein.skiperformance.com



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG, Gerhard Wolkersdorfer

Time Off in the Mountains:  
The Stubnerkogel viewing platform is a great place to enjoy the Hohe Tauern range in all its splendour.

### Friday, 10:15 hrs: Snowshoe Walk

In his interview, Hans Naglmayr also shared quite a bit with us about the Snowshoe Walks on the Graukogel. The romantic "Zirbenzauber" circular trail is one of the most beautiful walks in the Salzburg region. Zirbenzauber means "magic stone pines", and you'll see some of the oldest stone pines along the way, nearly 400 years old. The meeting point is at the base station of the Graukogelbahn lift, and the walk takes about three hours.

20.12. - 21.05.

**Info and registration:**  
Kur- und Tourismusverband Bad Gastein  
+43 6432 3393 560



© Gasteiner Tourismus GmbH, Manuel Menfell

### Saturday and Sunday

You don't always need a plan. At the weekend, just hop on a lift, go up a mountain and have fun on the slopes.

### Monday, 10:00 hrs: Time Off in the Mountains

Oh, you're still around! Of course you are: you've just had a perfect week in Skigastein, and so you want a bit more. However, it's your eighth day, so now you might want to slow down a bit. Why not join Theresa Sommerbichler for a lift ride up to the Stubnerkogel? Look forward to a winter walk with some gentle exercises to help you relax, stop your mind from racing, and enjoy a bit more time away from your daily routine.

30.12. - 21.05.

**Register via our online shop:**  
skigastein.skiperformance.com



© Gasteiner Tourismus GmbH, Michael Kneibichler

## "THE BEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND NATURE IS TO SPEND TIME IN IT"

Whether it's animals, plants, glaciers, water or rocks – as a park warden in the Hohe Tauern National Park, Hans Naglmayr has learned everything there is to know about the mountains, and he's happy to share this knowledge with our guests in Skigastein. In our new weekly programme, he leads the Ski Safaris on Mondays and the Snowshoe Walks on the Graukogel on Fridays. In this *Mountain Views* interview, he shares what he hopes to achieve through those activities.



© David Schöffler

*Hans, you've been spending time with people in nature for many years. Can you tell us why?*

There are so many things you can convey here that would otherwise be hard to explain. For instance, the issue of melting glaciers and why environmental protection is also about protecting humans. The best way to understand nature is to spend time in it.

*How does that tie in with winter sports?*

Gastein, in particular, has been doing a lot to make tourism more sustainable. We can offer some fantastic options – on and off the skiing slopes. We just have to present them to our guests while also channelling the flow of visitors a bit and fostering some awareness that plants, animals and humans need to be in harmony. And I wanted to do my part in this.

*How does that look in practice, and what can our guests expect on a Ski Safari?*

There's definitely a lot to talk about. For example, I can demonstrate very clearly why you should stay on marked slopes. Every time you take a shortcut, you risk scaring animals and causing them to panic, or even damaging young forests. Other intriguing topics are water reservoirs and snow cannons.

*And what about the Snowshoe Walks?*

The "Zirbenzauber" circular trail on the Graukogel is one of the most beautiful walks I know. The stone pines that line the route are magnificent trees and wonderful examples of the beauty of evolution. They are among the few species of trees that can withstand lightning strikes. Without this resilience, they wouldn't be able to thrive at such high altitudes.

*How have your guests been responding to your talks?*

Very positively. I've noticed that they often lack any basic knowledge, for instance about snow profiles and avalanche warning levels. But, of course, how could they know? And so our guests are grateful that someone is sharing this information with them. I do believe it encourages many of them to look at nature from a different perspective.

*Do we need to be physically fit to take part in your guided tours?*

It's far more important to have the right equipment, actually. We'll provide the snowshoes, but a T-shirt and trainers are obviously inadequate for alpine terrain. As for physical fitness: if you can cope with a leisurely hiking path, you're unlikely to have any problems on my guided tours. We take our time, so everyone can make the most of the mountains and enjoy their time there.



# The Nord Run

MOMENTS OF BLISS ON ONE OF THE LONGEST RUNS IN THE EASTERN ALPS

The Nord (North) Run covers over ten kilometres and has a vertical drop of 1,441 metres. However, these are just the bare facts which tell you very little about the thrill of setting off from the Hohe Scharte top station, at an altitude of 2,304 metres, with one of the longest runs of the Eastern Alps stretching out before you.

Mere figures can't do justice to the pure joy of feeling virgin snow under your skis as you descend the first steep slope. Neither do they reveal the magnificent view of the entire valley right up to the Hochkönig, which you'll enjoy after mastering this challenge. They can only give you the slightest idea of the gradual fatigue you'll feel in your thighs as you tackle this steep, larch-lined slope. They're silent about the self-discipline it takes to ignore the only refreshment stop along the way and continue gliding towards Bad Hofgastein. And they certainly don't tell you about the bliss of skiing down to the Weitmoserin Inn. In other words, the Nord Run is something you need to experience first-hand – preferably tomorrow.

It's definitely a lot more than a ski run. It's an unforgettable experience – and in fact not just for world-class skiers. If you're reasonably proficient and in good shape, then it's a great place to celebrate personal achievements, as the run offers something for everyone, from gentle slopes to steep descents. And you can look forward to two photos to remember this special day: one at the Photo Point at the starting position and one on the Leader Board at the finish.

**A rare treat:** for the ultimate Nord feeling, start early in the morning. At 9 o'clock in the morning, you can have the slope almost entirely to yourself and make the first tracks in the freshly

groomed snow. It's a wonderful sensation to enjoy a few snowplough turns and admire the Gastein mountains in their magnificent early morning colours.

**The Nord Race on 5 April 2025**

Quite a few thrill-seekers are already counting the days until 5 April 2025. In the Nord Race, skiers will race down a Super-G on this legendary run. The fastest among them will make it down in around six minutes. Since last year, this challenge has also been offered to snowboarders.



© Max Steinhilber



The peak of the Hohe Scharte is the starting point of the Nord Run, an absolute must for all skiing enthusiasts in the Gastein Valley.

© Max Steinhilber

© KTVB Hofgastein, Manuel Marktl

# The Infinity Run

ENDLESS SKIING FUN BETWEEN THE STUBNERKOGEL AND SCHLOSSALM

Not many ski resorts have their cable cars right next to a train station – ideal for visitors. In Bad Gastein, you can arrive by train and then walk straight to the valley station of the Stubnerkogel cable car.

About 10 minutes later, you'll have reached the top station at 2,233 metres above sea level, where you'll also find our famous suspension bridge. It's a fantastic highlight, but if you're a skiing enthusiast, this is just the beginning of your Gastein experience. In fact, you may not even have noticed it, but you're already in the midst of the "Skigastein Infinity Loop", an absolute must for ski fans. Just as the architecture of the 360-degree Glocknerblick viewing platform on the Stubnerkogel resembles a crown, you will feel like royalty on the slopes that follow. They are suitable for both novice and expert skiers.

The Infinity Run consists of four slopes and promises endless skiing fun between the Stubnerkogel in Bad Gastein and the Schlossalm in Bad Hofgastein. You can start on either mountain and as you do so, you may want to enjoy a pleasant stopover in the beautiful nature

reserve of the Angertal Valley. In all, you can look forward to four long skiing runs, totalling a vertical drop of over 4,000 metres – in other words, skiing fun with (almost) no limits.

**Our top four tips:**

- **The Number 11 Run:** To get from the Stubnerkogel to the Angertal Valley, the Number 11 Run is everyone's top choice. It's one of the most beautiful runs near Salzburg, and despite its vertical drop of 1,150 metres, it also offers a fantastic experience for a more leisurely descent.
- **The Junger Run:** For many locals, this is undoubtedly their most favourite descent from the Junger chairlift on the north side of the Stubnerkogel – especially towards the end of the season, as its position promises an ideal piste even in spring.

The Infinity Run promises almost unlimited skiing fun – with breathtaking views of the Gastein Valley and the surrounding mountains.

- **The H2 Run:** The H2 Run starts at the Schlossalm top station. It offers a shortcut to the Nord Run just before you reach its rather challenging descent to Bad Hofgastein. If you're a winter sports enthusiast, the H2 has everything you could wish for: panoramic viewpoints, steep slopes and forest trails.
- **The Ochsenriedel Run:** Starting from the Hochalm T-bar lift, this long descent leads towards the Angertal Valley. Gently undulating and pleasantly wide, it's a paradise for carving enthusiasts.

## Quiz

Are you ready for the challenges on the Nord and Infinity Runs? Why not answer the following five quiz questions along the way?

1. What's the official name of the starting slope of the Nord Run? H...?
2. On the Nord Run, just after the large slope, you won't get to the first ski lodge until shortly before the valley. What's it called?
3. How long is the suspension bridge near the Stubnerkogel?
4. There's a gondola cable car from the Angertal Valley to the Schlossalm. What's it called?
5. Why is there someone saying "Cheese!" at the Schlossalm top station?





# Flexible – like our guests

WITH AN HOURLY TICKET FROM GASTEINER BERGBAHNEN, NO TWO SKIING DAYS WILL EVER BE THE SAME



"An hourly ticket will allow you to get back down to the valley, even if your time is up."

Andreas Innerhofer  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

Let's be honest, what does a nice day's skiing look like for most of us? It doesn't mean being on the slopes from dawn to dusk. It means taking a break from time to time. And sometimes spending time at a ski lodge is so much fun and the view is so beautiful that you might not want to continue on your run straightaway. And yet, quite often, you carry on anyway because you want to make the most of your day ticket. The solution is to get one of our new hourly tickets in Gastein, as it gives you perfect flexibility.

You can choose between 2, 3 and 4-hour tickets, and you're no longer bound to specific times as you might be with an afternoon ticket. "We're confident that this is another great improvement of our service to customers," says Andreas Innerhofer, CEO of Gasteiner Bergbahnen.

Our guests are getting more and more flexible. Sometimes you may want to start the day in peace and quiet and make your way to the piste a bit later, in the afternoon, while at other times you may want to get off to an early start first thing in the morning and be back in the valley by lunchtime, to avoid all the hustle and bustle. An hourly ticket allows you to plan each day differently without letting your ticket expire somewhere up a mountain. "It will allow you to get back down to the valley, even if your time is up," says Andreas Innerhofer.

As a holidaymaker, you may also be interested in one of our many multi-day tickets. The six-day ski pass is particularly popular, with prices starting at just 312 euros (online rate). And children born in 2019 or later can travel free of charge on Gastein cable cars.

**Perfect flexibility: dynamic pricing and an extension to the season**

In addition to our flexible ski pass portfolio, you can also enjoy the dynamic pricing system of our online shop at [skigastein.skiperformance.com](https://www.skigastein.skiperformance.com). In this third year of our special price scale, early bookers can look forward to attractive discounts again. The principle is very simple: The earlier you buy your cable car ticket, the less you pay. Gradually, however, the on-line price moves closer to the regular price, and the number of early booking prices is limited.

In 2025, there'll be even more flexibility as the Easter weekend is a bit later than usual. Gasteiner Bergbahnen have therefore decided to keep up skiing operations in Sportgastein until 1 May, depending on the conditions of the snow, of course. So don't miss this unique opportunity.

*Sometimes a perfect day of skiing gets off to a very relaxed start – and sometimes it winds down that way. An hourly ticket gives you perfect flexibility.*

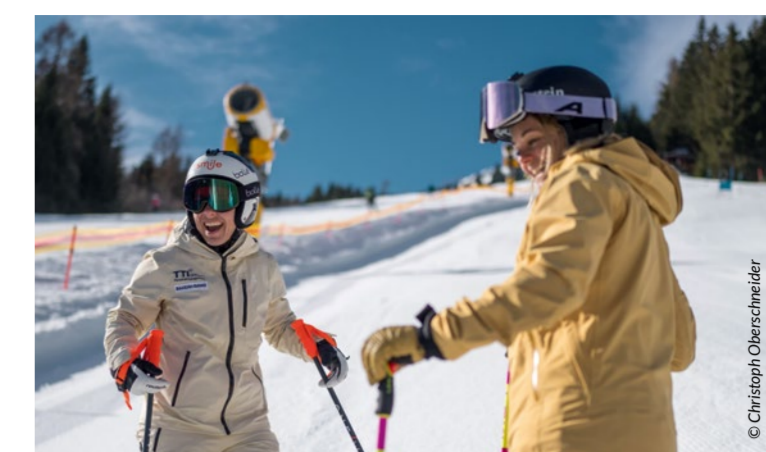
Convenient and easy booking via the online ticket shop



# #skigastein CONNECTS

FREERIDER SANDRA LAHNSTEINER TALKS TO SPORTS AND TV STARS ON CAMERA

Many ski stars and quite a few TV celebrities share a close connection with the Gastein Valley. Four of them now feature in #skigastein CONNECTS, a new video series created by film producer and freerider Sandra Lahnsteiner. They spent a whole day skiing with Sandra, sharing insights into their sport, their special bond with nature and their connection with Gastein.



Sandra Lahnsteiner and her celebrity guests will show you just how much Skigastein has to offer.



**So** who are the celebrity guests in #skigastein CONNECTS?

- **Bernhard Gruber** is a triple world champion in Nordic combined who won an Olympic gold medal in the team event in Vancouver in 2010. Local hero Bernhard Gruber takes Sandra Lahnsteiner on a cross-country skiing tour along a trail that was named after him, the "Bernhard Gruber Olympia Loipe", and also demonstrates his Alpine skiing skills.
- **Julia Mancuso**, 2006 Olympic giant slalom champion, has been close friends with Sandra since they worked together on a film shoot in Hawaii. Both women share a special passion for powder.
- As a conditioning coach for the Austrian Ski Federation (ÖSV), Sandra Lahnsteiner worked with both Anna Veith and **Nicole Schmidhofer** from Carinthia who was the world champion in Super-G in 2017. Nicole makes her first turns in the snow of Gastein for #skigastein CONNECTS and talks about her life after competitive sports during a break.

- Together with Bernhard Gruber, **Judith Altenberger** is another local celebrity. The actress, who starred in the successful Austrian TV series "School of Champions", reveals her favourite spots in the Gastein Valley in #skigastein CONNECTS.

#skigastein CONNECTS was created with the support of Gasteiner Bergbahnen. You can find the interview with Bernhard Gruber on YouTube and the Skigastein website, and another episode has been planned for each of the next three months.



"Our goal is to create a link between digital storytelling and real-life skiing experiences."

Markus Papai  
Head of Marketing and Communication

# Skigastein – a brand with a future

THERE'S BAD GASTEIN, THERE'S HOFGASTEIN, THERE'S SPORTGASTEIN – AND THERE'S ALSO SKIGASTEIN.

The brand name already appears on the Gasteiner Bergbahnen web domain. A separate logo was recently unveiled, which will be used primarily for product developments and innovations for guests. However, as part of a two-brand strategy, the current Gasteiner Bergbahnen logo will also be retained.

## SKIGASTEIN

The introduction of the new logo, developed by the agency Moodley, features in a comprehensive strategy paper, "Skigastein 2030". "We see Gasteiner Bergbahnen as a leading enterprise in the Salzburg region. To continue in this important role, we want to keep optimising the way we present our brand to the world," says Markus Papai, Head of Marketing and Communication. The new logo symbolises the innovative power of Skigastein with its increasing number of new services to inspire winter sports enthusiasts. The well established cable car logo, on the other hand, stands for the entire region's closeness to nature, its sense of tradition and the company's ambition to associate exciting leisure activities with a clear sustainability strategy.

Have you discovered the new Skigastein logo yet? Keep your eyes open and don't forget: The most important part of our "Skigastein 2030" vision is you!





SNOW JAZZ GASTEIN

12.-16.05.2025

Dedicated fans have known for a long time that Gastein is a major jazz hub. In the summer the concert series "summer.jazz.in.the.city" is an absolute must, while in winter it is "Snow Jazz Gastein". Unfamiliar sounds can also be heard at some of the ski lodges, although the heart of the event will be the sawmill in Bad Hofgastein. While Snow Jazz Gastein is highly popular among connoisseurs, newcomers to jazz may particularly enjoy the free concerts at various ski lodges, where they'll have a perfect opportunity to immerse themselves in improvised soundscapes and enjoy the unique combination of jazz and our winter wonderland. ■

© Gasteinertal Tourismus GmbH, Manuel Markt

# 2025 event highlights

## MUSIC, ART AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS IN THE GASTEIN VALLEY

In addition to fantastic pistes and breathtaking views, Skigastein also attracts visitors with a large number of special events. When our *Mountain Views* Team sifted through this highly varied calendar of events, they noticed four highlights, in particular.

### FIS SNOWBOARDING WORLD CUP

14.-15.01.2025

This is now the 25<sup>th</sup> time that stars of the snowboarding scene are coming together at Bad Gastein. The Buchebenwiese Slope has a gradient of over 30% and has established itself as the "Streif of Snowboarding". The vibrant atmosphere at the floodlit spectacle on Tuesday night and the mixed team event the following afternoon will evoke memories of the classic skiing event in Kitzbühel. At this anniversary, the spotlights will be on our local hero and professional snowboarder Andreas Prommegger from Pongau. He won three of the last four team events and is now hoping to achieve his second individual victory in this home race. ■



© KTVB Bad Gastein, Simon Hürter



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### LIGHTHOUSE™ Festival

25.-26.01.2025

Electronic beats and snow-covered mountain peaks – how can they possibly fit together? Extremely well actually, as we saw at the première of the LIGHTHOUSE Winter Edition last year, when several international DJs and local heroes turned various venues in the Gastein Valley into party zones. It had been a long-cherished wish of the organisers to create a holiday atmosphere in an Alpine setting, conjuring up Croatia, South Africa and Zanzibar. Gastein turned out to be the ideal place. ■

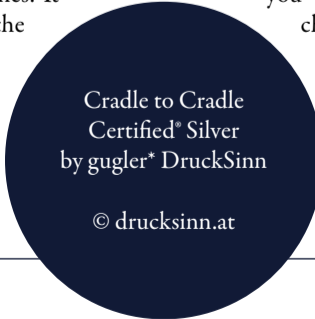


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### ART ON SNOW

01.-07.02.2025

There's far more to ice and snow than skiing. Year after year, local and international artists transform the Gastein Valley into an open-air studio where they create breathtaking sculptures in their Art on Snow. You can watch the artists as they create their icy works ... and you can also see those works change under the impact of the weather. ■



### Legal notice

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