

Winter at Lake Weissensee: Paradise of Ice and Snow

Carinthian lake Weissensee is appreciated as winter wonderland par excellence. In the cold season the lake turns into Europe's largest groomed natural ice surface, while forests and meadows become a white winter fairy tale. The sporty offer is impressive: over 15 winter sports activities fill active vacationers on and around the lake with enthusiasm. „Slow Winter Sports“, family-friendly offers, charming events and a special feeling for culinary delights make lake Weissensee a fascinating holiday destination - also in winter.

Fascinating Natural Ice: Dancing on Crystals

Thanks to a cover of ice and snow, lake Weissensee is able to pay tribute to its name during the winter months: The 6,5 square kilometre large lake lies at an altitude of 930 metres, freezes up reliably at mid-December, impresses with an ice thickness of up to 50 centimetres and offers about 80 days of ice skating a year. Lake Weissensee owes this impressive statistic to its geographically advantageous position on the one hand, on the other hand to the „Ice Master“ and his team, who dedicate themselves to the grooming of the ice surface, allowing lake Weissensee to gain the title „Europe's largest groomed natural ice surface“. The mountains and meadows around the lake complete the white winter pleasures in the heart of this natural paradise and offer almost unlimited possibilities to experience a winter filled with moments of happiness.

Sportily Active: Winter Sports between Mountains and Lake

At lake Weissensee we back on mindfulness and authentic joy of life. „Slow Winter Sports“ for the whole family is very important: slow-paced and pleasurable experience of the nature's paradise. Who wants to enjoy a varied winter holiday covering fewest possible kilometres will find the happiness he is seeking for at lake Weissensee: more than 15 sports can be practiced on and around the lake – between mountains and lake almost nothing is impossible.

Ice Skating: Lake Weissensee is a ice skating paradise par excellence. Fascinating natural ice, up to 25 km of perfectly groomed skating rinks and a 400-metres rink for speed skaters make sporty hearts beat faster.

Skiing & Snowboarding: Lake Weissensee is the perfect family skiing resort: a 4-seat chairlift and 4 ski-lifts are an insiders' tip with particularly family-friendly rates.

Cross-Country Skiing & Nordic Cruising & Biathlon: About 55 km of double track and skating lanes with the „Carinthian Quality Seal for Cross-Country Ski Runs“ are available around the lake. Do not miss: Nordic Cruising, the trendy variation of the classic cross-country skiing and the biathlon centre featuring even a laser shooting facility.

Winter Hiking: A number of cleared winter hiking trails invite to enjoy the winter sun – for example to „Alm hinterm Brunn“ or „Erlebnishof Tschabitscher“.

Ski Touring & Snowshoeing: The sunny lake Weissensee valley offers the ideal scenery for ski and snowshoe hikers. The ski run of the 4-seat chairlift is open for ski touring every Thursday until 10 pm.

Tobogganing: A 4 km long natural toboggan run leads from Naggler Alm down to valley. Naggler Alm is reachable comfortably by chairlift or also on foot.

Fatbiking: On suitable mountain bikes, so called „fat bikes“ (bikes with oversized tires), across the nature park: Lake Weissensee offers a road network for snow and ice bikers.

Ice Fishing: Fishing in winter: the lake is open for ice fishing from March 1st to 8th, 2020. There are day tickets (28 EUR) and week tickets (60 EUR) available.

There are even more ways to experience the fascinating winter landscape: during a **horse-sleigh ride**, practicing **ice hockey & stock sport** - the Number 1 sports of the locals, or in the most spectacular ways to enjoy the natural ice - **ice diving or ice sailing**.

Infrastructure: All You Need

Lake Weissensee makes the difference also in terms of sporty infrastructure. In fact, lake Weissensee cable car offers more than „just“ alpine skiing pleasure – it brings hikers and tobogganists to Naggler Alm. In the ski school our youngest guests learn how to master their skis and the older ones can perfect their technique. The Kids' World near the lower station offers a great playground for all children while their parents still enjoy the beautiful slopes. The ski depot next to the slope is the most comfortable way to deposit your equipment and the local sports shop offers everything that winter vacationers need. A particular highlight is offered for ice skaters: Klappshaats, like the Dutch pros use, as well as the innovation of the winter 2017: the worldwide first helmet for the natural ice skating sport – designed by the local sports shop.

„Weissensee Alps Only For Kids“: The Mountain for our Kids

This winter a very special offer has been created for the youngest skiers – because the little ones have always been given priority at lake Weissensee. The particularly family-friendly skiing package „Weissensee Alps only for Kids“ hand over the slopes to the children between January 5th and 18th, 2020. Booking a stay in one of the 20 „Ski inklusive“ member facilities, you'll get everything your children need for the winter holiday, helping you to save money in various ways. In fact, the „Weissensee Alps only for Kids“ week package for 178 EUR includes the ski pass, the complete skiing equipment for your children, skates for the afternoon programme on the lake, the skiing course for children in the morning with lunch, a final race and the kids' après-ski party. The Carinthian holiday destination has realized a great idea, setting the focus on the youngest and transforming lake Weissensee in January into an alpine natural kindergarten.

But the youngest enjoy even more advantages at lake Weissensee throughout the winter. With „Meterix“, the lake Weissensee Kids' Centimetre, being a child is great. The slogan is the smaller the cheaper and applies to children under 12 years old. The rates of the accommodation facility, the ski school, the ski rental and the cable car are based on the children's body height.

The Winter Programme: Charming Events

Every year in occasion of the “**Alternative 11-Cities-Tour**” about 5.000 Dutch sportspeople create a party atmosphere at the usually quiet lake Weissensee. The huge sports event with competitions covering 50, 100 and 200 kilometres will take place for the 32th time next year from January 18th to February 1st, 2020 and is the uncontested highlight of the skating season. Everything began in 1987, when scenes for the James Bond movie “The Living Daylights” were shot at the frozen lake Weissensee. Thanks to this movie, the Dutch - who were looking for a venue for the “Alternative 11-Cities-Tour” at that time - discovered the lake. Since 1988 this event has been taking place at lake Weissensee and could gladly be run every year thanks to the ideal ice conditions.

From January 18th to 19th, 2020 stock sport will dominate lake Weissensee, providing the stage for the “**3rd Lake Weissensee Alps Trophy**” in the Nature Park: from Saturday to Sunday about 30 teams from all over Austria compete for the desired trophy. Stock sport is an old popular sport and even if it has not been invented at lake Weissensee, people here can rely on profound knowledge about it. However, lake Weissensee did not create this event by coincidence. Besides the ideal natural conditions and the fact that the lake already gained great experience with big competitions, the lake has been venue of the international “Servus TV” stock sport event in the past years.

Triathlon is not just summer sports! The proof will be given on January 26th, 2020 when winter sportspeople immerse into the winterly paradise of the Nature Park in the course of the “**3rd Lake Weissensee Winter Triathlon**”: 5 km of snowshoe running, 12 km of ice skating on natural ice and 8 km of cross-country skiing at nature’s playground.

Another event takes place for the first time this winter: the “**Lake Weissensee Christmas Market**” from December 20th to 22nd, 2019. The walk across Techendorf offers a giant Advent wreath, a Christmas fairy tale trail, a nativity scene with small animals, the lake Weissensee “Perchten”, a Christmas brewery, culinary delicacies and much more.

The event „**Sternlan schauen**“ in the Nature Park lake Weissensee will reveal the force of the starry sky. Trained nature park rangers invite to new and full moon hikes under the starry sky. Part of these impressive hikes is a rest in an alpine cabin with dinner. Dates: December 26th, 2019, January 9th and 23rd, February 6th and 20th and March 12th, 2020. Further nature park events with trained guides are torch hikes, adventure trekking with small animals, stock sport events and much more. Take a look at the event calendar.

Lake Weissensee Culinary Art: Delightful Taste Experience

The inns and hotels around the lake cook with passion. The tasty ingredients are: traditional and regional foodstuff, love and a dash of longing for the original. And this is what you taste. Special taste experiences are offered everywhere at lake Weissensee. From the traditional inn to the awarded restaurant and a hearty alpine snack to enjoy in an alpine tavern. Austria’s 1st Vegetarian 4****S Pleasure Hotel is located at lake Weissensee: the Bio-Vitalhotel Weissenseerhof. Lake Weissensee is simply different also its culinary offer.

The most important winter links:

www.weissensee.com www.weissensee-bergbahn.at www.alpensport.at

www.arlbergerhof.at/skischule.html www.weissensee-triathlon.at

www.natureislauf.at www.yachtdiver.at www.weissensee.com/fatbike

Winter Highlights at Lake Weissensee

- ➔ **Lake Weissensee Christmas Market** from December 20th to 22nd, 2019
- ➔ **„Sternlan schauen“** Under the starry sky in the Nature Park lake Weissensee (6 x Winter Magic Moment)
- ➔ **2. Winter Cocktail-Days** – January 03rd to 4th, 2020
- ➔ **Skiing included** from January 05^h to 18th, 2020 in one of the member facilities
- ➔ **Weissensee Alps for Kids** – from January 05th to 20th, 2020
- ➔ **Lake Weissensee Alps Trophy** from January 18th to 19th, 2020
- ➔ **32nd Dutch 11-Cities-Tour** from January 18th to February 01st, 2020
- ➔ **3rd Lake Weissensee Winter Triathlon** January 26th, 2020 in the afternoon
- ➔ **Ice Fishing** from March 01st to 08th, 2020

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