**Garmisch-Partenkirchen**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

13

**Intermediate Runs**

25

**Advanced Runs**

4

**Total Runs**

42

**Lifts**

33

**Chairs**

6

**Drags**

20

**Gondola Cable Cars**

7

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, or just ‘Garmisch’ for short, has been Germany’s leading ski resort since downhill skiing was invented – and some would argue longer than that. It’s an attractive place, particularly in the centre, where the old buildings are painted with frescoes and the streets are lined with attractive shops and restaurants.

The large town first received winter sports visitors in 1900. At the time, downhill skiing was a minority activity, with cross-country more popular in the resort – as it remains today. It is, however, ski jumping for which Garmisch-Partenkirchen is most famous, and it’s one of the venues of the annual Four Hills Tournament, the 'Wimbledon' or 'FA Cup' of the sport.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen was an early Winter Olympic Games host and remains the only German resort to have staged the event. More recently, it hosted the 2011 Alpine Skiing World Championships and, as a regular host of World Cup events each year, it is now among the select few resorts to have staged all three levels of international competition.

With a year-round population of 30,000 (ten times that of most major ski resorts), Garmisch is a large destination and is unusual in that the number of permanent citizens outweighs the number of tourist beds, which certainly adds character to the lively resort.

**Location**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is located in the Werdenfelser Land district of the Bavarian Alps in southeastern Germany, close to the Austrian border.

**Website**

http://www.gapa.de

**Piste Map**

http://www.zugspitze.de/en/winter/skigebiet/zugspitze/lifte-pisten.htm

**Hit The Slopes**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen ski resort’s relative low altitude means the ski areas closest to the resort can have problems maintaining cover towards the end of the season; five of the key runs down to the town, however, have snowmaking facilities.

At the other extreme, the resort’s separate glacier ski area has the country’s highest run. It was formerly open for summer skiing and has Germany’s longest season from early autumn to mid-spring – so here skiers are guaranteed at least some snow cover.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is comprised of more than a dozen separate small- and medium-sized ski areas, with some located across the border in Austria. While this fragmentation is seen as a drawback for some, bringing (or hiring) a car – as most German guests do – permits a variety of options, while an efficient public transport system also connects the different runs.

Depending on each skier and boarder's needs and ability, a ticket can be purchased for individual areas or skiers can opt for the affordable Top Snow Card pass, which can also be used in the Austrian centres of Seefeld, Ehrwald and Lermoos.

The closest ski areas to Garmisch-Partenkirchen are Alpspitz, Kreuzeck and Hausberg. Between them, they offer around 40km (25 miles) of runs accessed in a number of ways, including a combination of a funicular railway and gondolas.

Garmisch’s other main ski area is on the Zugspitze mountain, Germany’s highest peak and the country’s only glacial ski area. The 22km (14 miles) of pistes here reach up to 2,720m (8,530 ft), and there’s also 720m (2,362ft) of vertical slopes.

Here, advanced skiers will get a buzz out of the historic Kandahar run, one of the most intimidating on the World Cup circuit. Freestyle skiers and boarders, meanwhile, will be challenged by the terrain park on the glacier; while cross-country skiers have 28km (17 miles) of tracks in the area to explore.

**Garmisch-Partenkirchen**

**Resort**

1144

**Base**

720

**Top**

2720

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a year-round resort with plenty of activities to keep all ages entertained. It’s also one of the better options for groups of non-skiers. Guests receive a ‘Visitors’ Card’ which entitles them to complimentary use of the local buses and free or discounted entry to facilities, including the swimming pool and ice rink complexes.

The Alpspitz-Wellenbad centre houses a swimming pool with a wave machine and flume, sauna, solarium and fitness facilities, as well as family pools. For those who prefer their water frozen, the resort’s Ice Sports Centre contains five indoor and outdoor rinks, with the option of curling lessons, ice skating or ice hockey.

The town has a range of cinemas, theatres, concert halls, museums and other cultural activities; while tours to nearby attractions, such as the ‘fairytale’ castles of Linderhof and Neuschwanstein, are also available.

Visitors can also choose from numerous outdoor activities, including toboggan runs and paragliding; while 100km (66 miles) of hiking paths are open for public use.

**Family Fun**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a prime example of a modern, purpose-built resort with plenty of family fun both on and off the slopes, including the likes of tobogganing, ice skating and a rope course.

The town is quite large and the ski areas are rather fragmented, so it’s likely there’ll be fair amount of time spent walking, on buses or on funicular railways. If that’s likely to be an issue, check the accommodation’s location and accessibility before booking.

On the slopes, children aged four and over can join a ski school, where classes and tuition are available in English.

**Retail Therapy**

Rather than the usual ski resort mix of half ski shops and around a quarter each of food shops and essential suppliers, Garmisch has a far more eclectic range of retail options.

Housing around 450 stores, this is definitely a destination for shoppers who enjoy whiling away an hour or two browsing for souvenirs and other desirable items. The main shopping areas are concentrated in the pedestrian zone around Michael-Ende-Kurpark, where there’s a mix of traditional shops and well-known chains.

For smaller, quirkier options, try historic Ludwigstrasse in Partenkirchen, the former market street that is now home to jewellers, potters and a chocolatier among others. A weekly market is organised here on Thursdays, while another is arranged around Polznkasparhaus/Mohrenplatz in Garmisch on Fridays.

**Splashing Out**

One of the activities that first attracted people to the early winter sports resorts of the late-nineteenth century was the simple sport of tobogganing. Garmisch, with its 5km-long (3-mile) Mount Hausberg run (tel: (08821) 2828; [www.rodelbahn-gap.de](http://www.rodelbahn-gap.de)), is a perfect place to enjoy this activity. The run is suitable for the whole family and can be negotiated under floodlights on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1800 to 2000, as well as during the daytime.

A second, shorter but faster run descends from St Martinshütte on Mount Grasberg (tel: (08821) 3469; [www.eckbauerbahn.de](http://www.eckbauerbahn.de)). This 1.6 km-long (1 mile) track has no lift, so be prepared for some exercise as you’ll need to walk up the hill. Toboggan hire is available through most ski schools and shops in the town.

**Apres Ski**

A bustling resort, Garmisch-Partenkirchen offers a large choice of more than 30 après-ski establishments, from sophisticated lounge bars to lively pubs. In the latter category there’s the omnipresent Irish-themed venue, unsurprisingly named Irish Pub (Rathaus Platz 8; tel: (08821) 3938; [www.theirishpub.de](http://www.theirishpub.de)). Later in the evening, head to one of three nightclubs that are open until the early hours.

But there’s much more besides clubbing, with a casino housing more than 100 slot machines, roulette and gaming tables, as well as a cinema, classical music concerts at the Kleines Kurtheatre (Richard Strauss Platz; tel: (08821) 81173; [www.kleinestheater.de](http://www.kleinestheater.de)) or Bavarian folklore performances at the Peasant's Theatre or the Bayernhalle. Other options include ice skating, an ice dance show or an ice hockey match at the Olympic rink.

**Eating Out**

Bavaria has a reputation for hearty meals, and with more than 100 restaurants in Garmisch-Partenkirchen visitors won’t go hungry. It’s not all meat, cheese and rustic dishes however, as various cuisines from around the world are also represented; including Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Mexican and Thai.

But for the full traditional experience, the 16th-century Atlas Posthotel (Marienplatz 12; tel: (08821) 7090; [www.atlas-posthotel.com](http://www.atlas-posthotel.com)) allows guests to dine in the ornate Poststube, complete with horns hanging from the ceilings and local artworks adorning the walls.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Innsbruck Airport (INN).

Distance to resort: 60km (37 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour.

**Getting Around**

Garmisch’s authorities are keen to minimise car traffic in the resort, so as a consequence there are pedestrianised central areas and an efficient local bus and rail network. Anyone staying overnight in one of the town’s hotels or other forms of accommodation receives a ‘Visitors’ Card’ that entitles them to free use of public transport.

**Hotels**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen has a wide variety of accommodation types, but the predominant option is the traditional hotel, where the choice ranges from the basic to 5-star luxury.

**Reindl's Partenkircher Hof**

Centrally-located, this century-old luxury accommodation provides exquisitely decorated rooms and 5-star graded facilities. Fine dining can be had in Reindl's Restaurant or in the brasserie located in the ‘winter garden’.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofstrasse 15

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Germany

**Telephone**

(08821) 943 870.

**Website**

http://www.reindls.de

**Grand Hotel Sonnenbichl**

A classical-style hotel with a range of dining options, Grand Hotel Sonnenbichl offers a terrace with stunning views of the Bavarian Alps. The hotel is located just a few minutes from the centre of the resort.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Burgstrasse 97

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Germany

**Telephone**

(08821) 7020.

**Website**

http://www.sonnenbichl.de

**Garmischer Hof**

Built in an attractive chalet style, Garmischer Hof is among the best of the many traditional mid-range Bavarian hotels in the town. Centrally located, the hotel has been owned by the same family for four generations and it is renowned for its service and quality.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Chamonixstrasse

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Germany

**Telephone**

(08821) 9110.

**Website**

http://www.garmischer-hof.de

**Roter Hahn Hotel**

A friendly 3-star hotel located where the areas of Garmisch and Partenkirchen converge, Roter Hahn Hotel has an excellent indoor swimming pool and a small spa.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofstrasse 44

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Germany

**Telephone**

(08821) 943 270.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-roter-hahn.com

**Gästehaus im Winkel**

Gästehaus im Winkel provides friendly and affordable bed and breakfast accommodation in a central location near the church.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Burgstrasse 7

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Germany

**Telephone**

(08821) 52650.

**Website**

http://www.urlaub-in-garmisch.de

**Ferienhaus Profamily**

A friendly and well-run family-owned bed and breakfast, Ferienhaus Profamily features affordable apartment-style rooms. Guests here are served a traditional Bavarian breakfast, which is included in the nightly rate.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Lahnewiesstrasse 21

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Germany

**Telephone**

(08821) 948 577.

**Website**

http://www.profamily-web.de