

Sports all year ►

For the size of the country Austria must be one of the most successful nations in the world of sports. Austrians have a reputation of being laid back. But there must be enough sports enthusiasts to use the ever growing number of sports facilities. Visitors are free to use those as well, of course, and all year round.

Winter sports are perfectly possible in summer now: the Tyrol alone has five all-year skiing regions, all on glaciers above 2500 metres.

A typical summer day spent in the European Sporting Region of Kaprun-Zell am See in Salzburg might look like this: skiing or snowboarding on the Kitzsteinhorn glacier in the morning; in the afternoon cycling or inline skating around the lake in Zell am See; then swimming or diving in the lake; and playing some squash or tennis in the evening. Those who need more exertion could go to a disco later on.

Even ice-skating and tobogganing have become summer sports. A number of holiday resorts offer dry toboggan runs. The lift ticket entitles the holder to use the run; toboggans can be rented on the spot. And there is a growing number of indoor ice-rinks for summer skating.



'Wanderful Austria' is the right place for a hiking holiday. No special training is needed, but the right gear is important – especially the right shoes. Walks can be as varied as the countryside: from strolling through the woods or along the lake shore to all-day mountain hikes.

Each village in the Alps has its own trained guides to take visitors on skiing or climbing tours – and bring them back safely.

Many resorts in Austria have cycle rental facilities for those who want to keep fit on cycling trips. They also have mountain bikes for more adventurous tours. The Austrian Federal Railways transport all kinds of bikes at very low fares, and bikes can be hired at more than 100 major railway stations.

It can be taken for granted that a holiday resort will have tennis and squash courts, indoors and outdoors, of course.

Some sports, however, will always need the right weather: like paragliding, for instance, or windsurfing, sailing and water skiing. There are facilities for water sports on most of Austria's 100 lakes. Fishing and golf are far less strenuous occupations, for the more mature visitor perhaps. Which is to show that Austrian resorts provide sports facilities for an almost unlimited range of tastes.

<http://cms.austria.info> >>> English >>> outdoor activities
www.tiscover.at >>> English >>> recreation and sports

1 Sports and sports facilities

Look at the **photos** on the opposite page.
 What are the sports called in English?
 What other sports do you know?

Read the **article** about sports in Austria: it is not necessary to understand every word of it.
 Look out for words relating to sports and underline them in the text.

Look at the **icons** on the right. Which sports do they show?
 Work with a partner.

What kind of facilities do you need for these sports?
 Take notes in your copybook.

2 The gear you need



Listen to Daniela talking to Buky, Johann and Peter.
 Buky is an exchange student from England.
 What are their **favourite sports**?

Buky ●	likes	● cycling.
Daniela ●		● mountain biking.
Johann ●		● inline skating.
Peter ●		● cross-country skiing.
		● alpine skiing.
		● snowboarding.
		● running.
		● hiking.
		● swimming.

What type of gear (**equipment**) do they need?
 Take notes in the frame above.

3 Do you like sports?

Interview each other in a group of 3 or 4 about your favourite sports, about the gear you use, and about the facilities.
 Take notes, then report to your class, like this:

Daniela likes cycling on cycling paths along the Danube.
 She's got a 24-speed trekking bike.

Peter likes inline skating.
 He's got a brand-new pair of ... skates.

