



TWO WHEELING THROUGH SAALFELDEN LEOGANG

Uphill, downhill or at a leisurely pace, the region attracts cyclists of all stripes.

Saalfelden Leogang is the ideal holiday destination for bikers regardless of whether they prefer leisurely riding, mountain biking, or downhill in the Bikepark Leogang. This diverse landscape offers tours, trails and stretches of all kinds from easy to difficult. No wonder that everyone, from world champions to beginners, loves to pedal here.

“As a bike region full of variety, we want to attract professional bikers as well as beginners to explore our area on two wheels,” said Marco Pointner, CEO of Saalfelden Leogang Tourism. In order to ensure that this really works out, there is a broad spectrum of cycling offers to choose from. In 2019, Saalfelden Leogang will invest a total of approx. one million euros, which will enable it to significantly expand its range of biking trails. Ideal for everyone who doesn't want to cycle uphill: From 2019 on, both the Asitz and the Steinbergbahn gondola lifts will run for bikers and their bikes.

A bike park like no other

Bikepark Leogang is also a hot spot for the Bike World Champions and Austria's only venue for the Mercedes-Benz UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup. On 5 and 6 September 2020, the UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Championships will take place here for the second time. The many varied routes are not only designed for pros, hobby bikers love them too!

In time for the 2019 summer holidays, the new Antonius Trail and the Steinberg Line, with the latter being an absolute highlight: ten kilometres long, a 969 metre descent and flowing curves. At a slope of roughly nine percent, it will probably have the flowiest trails in the bike park. The clearings you pass give you a unique view of the Leoganger Steinberge mountains.

Another new addition to Bikepark Leogang for 2019 is the large asphalted pump track incl. a jump line and dirt line. You can really get your kicks here on 5,000 square metres.

It will be “EPIC”, but we can't divulge any more at this juncture.

New, hand-made single trails with cool obstacles and dream views

Besides the new lines in Bikepark Leogang, in 2019 there will be another two routes in Saalfelden Leogang: the Forsthof Trail and the Schwarzleo Trail. Both are narrow, hand-made single trails. The Forsthof Trail led past high crags that look like Middle Earth and crosses several streams. It is around two kilometres long and includes many North Shore elements. Slightly shorter at roughly 1.8 kilometres is the Schwarzleo Trail. It winds its way picturesquely through mixed woodland and offers a dream view of the Leoganger Steinberge mountain range in addition to tight technical curves, flowly passages and North Shore elements.

All ages can learn to mountain bike in the Riders Playground.

Kids or adults, who want to practice the trend sport of mountain biking for the first time, should make tracks to the Riders Playground at the valley station of the Leoganger Bergbahnen cable cars. With its 10,000 square metres, it's the largest beginners' park in Europe. In addition to its practical conveyor belt for bikes and riders, there is also a surface lift, which can be used with bikes. With each round, beginners and children can get used to the many obstacles and learn to handle the curves before trying out the action-packed courses in the bike park. Those with more experience and courage can try cool jumps at the GoPro Bagjump while also hanging on to a GoPro. The landing into the giant airbags is of course safe.

Road biking on the highest mountain in Austria

Saalfelden Leogang is also ideal for road bikers. For example, the Kaisertour winds along the famous Grossglockner High Alpine Road up to Austria's highest mountain.

More cycling fun thanks to e-bikes

Bikes with electric power are becoming increasingly popular. Long gone are the days when only older or unfit cyclists used them. Those who simply desire to expand their realm of sporty possibilities and to experience ascending to a mountain hut, or who have a much faster partner to keep up with, will enjoy the benefits of a fully charged battery. You can travel up to 100 km on a single battery charge depending on route conditions. Saalfelden Leogang is amongst the world's largest e-bike regions and is ideal for extended electric cycling tours thanks to its countless routes. E-bike batteries can be exchanged or recharged at countless petrol stations, partner hotels, sports shops or even at the mountain inns while bikers take a refreshment stop.

Bike hotels and guides for a unique holiday experience

Specialised bike hotels are fully devoted to cyclists. This includes infrastructure such as lockable bike storage rooms and loaner tools as well as a laundry washing service for worn bike clothing. Many of the hotel owners are themselves enthusiastic bikers and often join guests on tour. In any case, hotel personnel endeavour to meet and exceed the demands of cyclists and to help in route planning. The following hotels are biker-friendly: Hotel Bacher, Holzhotel Forsthofalm hotel, Lebe Frei Hotel Der Löwe, mama thresl, Good Life Resort Riederalm, Ritzenhof – Hotel und Spa am See, Biohotel Rupertus, Salzburgerhof – home of sports and Vitalhotel Saliterhof.

Even the guides at the Elements Outdoorsports bike school are happy to help plan and are able to transform any guided tour into an adventure. At the Sport 2000 Simon and Sport Mitterer sports shops, the right equipment is available, from protective clothing to bikes, and is of course also available for hire.

The best bike events in Saalfelden Leogang

The Out of Bounds Festival will take place from 7 to 9 June 2019. During this time, the Mercedes-Benz UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup will also be held. In addition to the competition, spectators can peak over the shoulder of bike pros and mechanics as they prepare in the Team & Expo Area.

It's a race to the finish at Saalfelden's local mountain. During the 7th Biberg Auffiradler uphill race in July 2019, participants will ascend 5.5 km with a 700 m elevation gain. The goal of this competition for ambitious bikers among the guests and local residents is to reach the Berlis Hütte mountain inn.

The BIKE festival is well known from Riva on Lake Garda and Willingen in Sauerland. In 2019, it will take place in Saalfelden Leogang for the first time from 13 to 15 September. There are various action-packed competitions for all age groups, test obstacle courses and of course plenty of opportunities to celebrate. At the BIKE exhibition, you can not only see the latest models for 2020, you can even test them yourself! It's a must for hard-core bikers.

All bike fans should pencil in the UCI Mountain Bike Downhill WM, which takes place from 5 to 6 September 2020 in Saalfelden Leogang.

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