

Winter at Lake Weissensee: Paradise of ice and snow

Carinthia's Lake Weissensee is considered a winter wonderland par excellence: in winter, the lake transforms into the largest groomed natural sheet of ice in Europe, forests and meadows turn into a white winter dream. The diverse range of sports activities and the environmentally friendly mobility concept are impressive. Both are included for holidaymakers who are holders of the Weissensee PremiumCARD. On top of that, family-friendly programmes and the special flair for culinary delights make Lake Weissensee a fascinating holiday region.

Fascination natural ice: Dancing on crystals

A layer of ice and snow ensures that Lake Weissensee lives up to its name in the winter months: the 6.5 square kilometre lake is situated in 930 metres above sea level, reliably freezes over from mid-December, impresses with an up to 40 centimetres thick layer of ice and scores with around 70 ice skating days every year. Lake Weissensee owes these impressive statistics on the one hand to its geographical location, and on the other hand to the "ice master" and his team, who are fully committed to ensuring that Lake Weissensee can boast the title of "Europe's largest groomed natural sheet of ice". The mountains and meadows around the lake also guarantee white winter pleasure in the middle of a natural paradise and offer almost unlimited possibilities.

Sporty active: Family winter between mountain and lake

Winter sports for the whole family are very popular at Lake Weissensee. Those who like to enjoy a multifaceted and diverse winter holiday and also want to travel the shortest possible distances will find what they are looking for at Lake Weissensee. At least 17 sports can be enjoyed on and around the lake:

Lake Weissensee is a **skating Eldorado** par excellence. Fascinating natural ice, up to 25 km of perfectly groomed circular ice-skating tracks and a 400-metre speed skating track will make every athlete's heart beat faster. Lake Weissensee is the perfect **family ski and snowboard resort**. The four-seater chair lift and the 4 T-bar lifts are an insider tip with particularly family-friendly prices. 40 km of **dual & skating cross-country ski tracks**, awarded with the "Carinthian Seal of Approval for Cross-Country Ski Tracks", are also available for **biathlon** (with laser guns) around the lake. A must try: **Nordic Cruising**, the trendy variation of classic cross-country skiing. A multitude of cleared **winter hiking trails** - for example to the "Alm hinterm Brunn" or the "Erlebnishof Tschabitscher" - invite you to enjoy the winter sun. The sunny Weissensee Valley offers the ideal backdrop for **ski tourers and snowshoe hikers**. The piste of the four-seater chair lift is open for ski tourers until 10pm every Thursday.

A 4 km long **natural toboggan run** leads from the Naggler Alm into the valley. You can get to the alpine pasture easily on foot or by using the Weissensee Mountain Railway. Cycle through the nature park on winter mountain bikes, so-called **"fat bikes"** (bikes with balloon tyres) or explore the landscape by cruising on **"moonbikes"** (special electrically skidoos): Lake Weissensee has a designated route network for this purpose. "Good Fishing!" also in winter: The lake will be open for **ice fishing** from 1 February till end of Ice-Season (day ticket EUR 33,- ; week ticket EUR 73,-) The fascination of the winter landscape can also be enjoyed during a **horse-drawn sleigh ride**, the most popular local sport - **curling & ice hockey, ice diving** -

probably the most spectacular way to admire the natural ice on the lake, or – by no means less spectacular - **ice sailing**.

Infrastructure: Everything you need

Lake Weissensee also makes your ears prick up when it comes to the sports infrastructure: In "Kinderland", the youngest children are well looked after with and without skis, while their parents carve relaxed on the piste. A ski depot right next to the piste saves having to lug your equipment around, and the local sports shop offers everything that winter holidaymakers need. Special highlights await ice skaters: clap skates, as used by Dutch pros, and special helmets for skating on natural ice.

Weissensee PremiumCARD: One lake. One ticket.

The Weissensee PremiumCARD allows the use of the entire local public transport system the ice rink, the cross-country ski tracks and, as part of the ski-inclusive days from 7 to 21 January 2024, the mountain railway. True to the motto "Arrive and get going", the card is handed out by the host on arrival and can be used immediately. It is valid for the whole stay, until midnight on the day of departure. The Weissensee PremiumCARD is not only intended to promote soft mobility locally, it also creates an important incentive to make environmentally friendly travel by public transport more attractive, as the "last mile" to the hotel is also included. The train station shuttle takes guests of the Weissensee PremiumCARD partner companies comfortably from the train station in Greifenburg to the hotel (and back). All partner companies can be found at www.weissensee.com/premiumcard.

"Weissensee - Alps only for kids": The mountain for children

With the exceptionally family-friendly "Weissensee - Alps only for kids" ski course package, the pistes belong to the children between 6 and 20 January 2024. Those who book their stay at a "Weissensee PremiumCARD" partner company during this period will get everything that young skiers need during their winter holidays and, at the same time, put less strain on their wallets. The "Weissensee - Alps only for kids" weekly package for EUR 229 includes: ski pass, ski equipment for the children, ice skates for the afternoon programme on the lake, the children's ski course in the morning - including meals - and a final race.

Event with charm: The Alternative 11 Cities Tour

Every year, around 5,000 Dutch sportsmen and women ensure a public festival atmosphere as part of the "Alternative 11 Cities Tour". This huge sporting event with competitions over 50, 100 and 200 kilometres will take place for the 34th time from 20 January to 3 February 2024 and is the undisputed highlight of the ice-skating season. In 1987, scenes for the James Bond film "The Living Daylights" were shot on the frozen Lake Weissensee. The film brought the lake to the attention of the Dutch, who were looking for a venue for the "Alternative Dutch 11 Cities Tour". This tour has been taking place on Lake Weissensee since 1988.

Special family highlight: "Sternlan schauen" (watching the stars)

During "Sternlan schauen" in Weissensee Nature Park, you will be enchanted by the power of the sky. Qualified nature park rangers invite you to a full moon or new moon hiking tour under the firmament. Part of this impressive hiking tour is a culinary stop at a mountain hut. Other nature park programmes with qualified nature park guides, such as hiking tours by torchlight,

Rangers on site - Galileo on ice, curling Weissensee style and much more, are also available. A glance at the calendar of events is definitely recommended.

Lake Weissensee cuisine: A tasty culinary experience

The kitchens around the lake are passionate about cooking. The tasty ingredients are: traditional and regional food, lots of love and a pinch of longing for authenticity. And that you can taste. At Lake Weissensee, tasty culinary delights can be experienced in many different ways: from down-to-earth inn to Toque-awarded restaurant. Austria's first purely vegetarian gourmet hotel - Das Strandhotel am Weissensee - can also be found at the shores of Lake Weissensee.

Lake Weissensee winter highlights

- ➔ "Sternlan schauen" in the nature park 28.12.2023 und 04.01., 11.01., 18.01., 25.01., 01.02., 08.02., 15.02., 22.02. and 29.02.2024
- ➔ **Skiing included** at Weissensee PremiumCARD partner companies 07.-21.01.2024
- ➔ **Weissensee Alps for kids** - 06.01. - 20.01.2024
- ➔ **34 years Dutch 11 Cities Tour** 20.01.-03.02.2024
- ➔ **Ice fishing** 01.02.2024 until the end of the ice season
- ➔ **Ice musicfestival** 09. – 11.02.2024

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