



## TWO WHEELING THROUGH SAALFELDEN LEOGANG

**Roads were made for journeys not destinations: mountain biking, e-biking and leisure cycling for every taste**

**Saalfelden Leogang is the ideal holiday destination for bikers of every stripe. The Alps' most contrast-rich region boasts the right route for mountain bikers, downhill pros at the Epic Bikepark Leogang, leisure cyclists or e-bike fans. Long and short trails and tours in every degree of difficulty lead through this uniquely beautiful natural landscape. It should therefore come as no surprise that again and again beginners share the same trails as world champions in the bike scene.**

### **The 2021 bike season promises plenty of excitement**

"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 partnership with Saalbach Hinterglemm and Fieberbrunn, the Saalfelden Leogang Bike Region is now the largest biking region in Austria with seven mountains, nine cable cars and over 80 kilometres of lines and trails. In recent years, more than one million euros have been invested to expand the range of biking facilities in Saalfelden Leogang. New this year, the Epic Bikepark Leogang now features a new downhill track, a GoPro Bagjump landing bag and numerous extensions to various tracks. In addition, the new Knappentail line with its impressive North Shore elements is sure to delight single-trail fans. Two key events, the first UCI Mountain Bike Double World Cup in Austria and the Bike Festival, are also scheduled to take place at the Epic Bikepark Leogang. Those who'd prefer to explore the area in a more leisurely manner should rent an e-bike and visit the regional farm shops to reward themselves with numerous Pinzgau delicacies during a relaxing stop off.

### **New single trail with North Shore elements in Austria's largest bike region**

Together, Saalfelden Leogang, Saalbach Hinterglemm and Fieberbrunn have formed Austria's largest bike region since 2020. As a guest, you profit from a joint bike ticket allowing you the possibility to explore over 80 kilometres of lines and trails and nine cable cars on seven mountains! Thanks to the cable cars, the lines and trails are within easy reach. Boasting easy, short and difficult bike routes, the extensive route network is perfectly suitable for beginners, the advanced and professionals.

Best of all: The offer in Saalfelden Leogang is also being continuously expanded. The Knappentail, for instance, is an all-new natural single trail built exclusively using natural materials. The trail features impressive wooden structures called "North Shore elements" and offers riders plenty of action. Meanwhile, the two proven single trails continue to complement the bike region's versatile route network. The two-kilometre Forsthof Trail crosses several streams and passes by high rocky outcroppings. The 1.8-kilometre Schwarzleo Trail extends through a picturesque mixed forest landscape and boasts North Shore elements in addition to technical hairpin turns and flow sections.

For gravel bikers, the Saalfelden Leogang region has proven itself to be an absolute insider tip. Gravel biking is always a special experience whether touring, seeking thrills on fast off-road laps on gravel roads and forest paths or enjoying a leisurely exploration tour. All around Saalbach Hinterglemm, Saalfelden Leogang and Fieberbrunn there is an extensive Alpine touring network promising all kinds of adventures for gravel bikers.

## **20 years of fun: The Epic Bikepark Leogang now boasts new attractions and a natural downhill trail**

The Epic Bikepark Leogang is a popular meeting place for bike world champions and those keen to become one! This year, Europe's most renowned bike park will celebrate its 20th anniversary. For beginners of all ages, the best place to train is the Riders Playground at the valley station of the Leoganger Bergbahnen cable car company. This 10,000-m<sup>2</sup> area is the perfect place to get your kicks! Here, beginners and children learn the correct technique and how best to corner and overcome small obstacles before moving on to more challenging trails in the bike park.

In addition, there are two new conveyor belts in the Riders Playground, 45 and 66 metres long respectively, which allow easier access to the adventurous mountain bike route.

For skilled riders, there's also the new natural downhill course called "Vali's Hölle". A section of this challenging track was already in use during the 2020 Downhill World Championship and was named after local downhill heroine Vali Höll. In addition, the Hangman I & II lines have been rebuilt to offer even more biking fun as of this year.

## **Modern Bagjump landing bag and asphalt Velosolutions pump track**

Want to manage more intense jumps in the air and small tricks on the trails? Try out the latest two new attractions at the Epic Bikepark Leogang: the asphalt Velosolutions pump track and the new GoPro Bagjump landing bag. The pump track optimises the interplay of arms and legs and you gradually gain routine with the bike. The new GoPro Bagjump landing bag, an air cushion that ensures an even safer landing after an action-packed bike jump, offers experienced bikers in particular the opportunity to learn new tricks and get a better feel of the bike in the air.

First opened in 2020 and converted into a fun jump line, Hot-Shots-fired by GoPro is getting an upgrade this year. The track has now added 125 metres of airtime.

## **More environmental awareness and sustainability on the trails**

It goes without saying, that fun biking also includes a respectful approach to nature. At the Bikepark Leogang, our motto is "Keep the Epic Bikepark clean." Tear-Off systems, i.e. tear-off films that remove the top, dirty layer from the lenses of the goggles, harm the environment and are not allowed from now on. As an incentive, if you buy a ticket in rainy weather, you'll receive a replacement roll-off system and a 10% voucher at Sport Mitterer for 100% roll-off goggles.

## **First UCI Mountain Bike Double World Cup and BIKE Festival**

Austria's largest bike region will play host to exciting events that passionate bikers should definitely mark in their calendars. Downhill World Cup events have been held at the Epic Bikepark Leogang since 2010. In 2012 and 2020, the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships were also held in Saalfelden Leogang. This year, the anticipation for an action-packed summer of biking is at fever pitch: from 11-13 June 2021, the world's best athletes in the disciplines of cross-country olympic and downhill will compete in Austria's first UCI Double World Cup.

The BIKE Festival will also take place once again in 2021. From 10-12 September 2021, visitors can inform themselves about the latest innovations in the bike scene and test the latest bikes including accessories. There is also a varied workshop and tour programme to enjoy. Admission is free.

For mountain bikers and mountain runners, the "Biberg-Auffiradler und Berglauf" biking and mountain running event is a true sporting pleasure. For the ninth time already, this popular race run will take place on Saalfelden's local mountain. Participants must surmount 5.5 kilometres and 700 metres of elevation gain. Afterwards, stop off at the "Berggasthof Biberg" inn to reward yourself with tasty Pinzgau delicacies.

## **Embark on an E-bike pleasure tour featuring even more cycling pleasure, interesting stop offs, and regional specialties**

E-biking is more popular than ever, especially since last summer. With a full battery, it is possible to cycle for around 140 kilometres - even uphill and on extreme gradients. "Because nowadays it's no longer just older or less physically active tourists who want electric assistance," says Marco Pointner, Managing Director of Saalfelden Leogang Tourism. "Most cyclists use the e-bike to make longer, more substantial tours during a single day."

In Saalfelden Leogang, numerous routes invite you to make the most of an extended e-bike tour. Should the battery ever wear down, recharging is possible while enjoying a break at numerous e-bike charging stations, partner hotels, sports stores and even on Alpine pastures.

In addition to the added fun and far easier biking, gourmet pleasure is yet another bonus, which is the concept behind an e-bike pleasure tour. The route starts at the Asitz valley station in Leogang and leads along the cycle path through the centre of Leogang and Saalfelden and then via Breitenbergham and Uttenhofen back to Leogang. The route is well suited for both e-bike professionals and beginners. During the 2.5 hour tour, be sure to stop at one of the many refreshment stops along the way. For example, there is a farm shop in a lovingly converted horse stable, a self-pick-up station for organic vegetables and a distillery that also produces gin and vodka, just to name a few! For a refreshing dip, it's best to jump into the Ritzensee lake.

### **Road bike tours in the Alps and to the Grossglockner mountain**

Winding routes and beautiful views are exactly what you'd expect from a satisfying racing bike tour in Saalfelden Leogang. In total, the bike region features eight tours and a 144-kilometre route network. The Kaiser tour to the Grossglockner mountain is an extra special experience. At an altitude of 3,798 metres, the 'Glockner' is Austria's highest mountain. Road cyclists must surmount 80 kilometres and 2,035 metres of elevation gain on this route to reach the Kaiser Franz-Josef-Höhe cul-de-sac and lookout point. Those who make the ascent will be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the legendary king of the high Alps.

### **Excellent bike hotels and guides for a well-organised bike trip**

An action-packed biking holiday is best enjoyed at a bike-friendly accommodation. In Saalfelden Leogang, there are specialised cycling hotels that offer guests all the necessary services needed to stay on the track! Such services include lockable bike storage rooms, loaner tools or, for example, laundry service for dirty cycling clothes. The helpful and knowledgeable staff also has quite a role to play here as well: Many hotel owners are themselves enthusiastic cyclists and many even join guests on tours. As a bike holidaymaker, you can choose from a huge range of bike hotels in Saalfelden Leogang. The Bacher hotel, the Forsthofalm hotel, the Lebe Frei Hotel Der Löwe, the mama thresl hotel, the Riederalm Good Life Resort, the Ritzenhof lakeside hotel and spa, the Rupertus organic hotel, the Salzburgerhof (home of sports), and the four-star superior Krallerhof hotel are ideally suited for a cycling stay in the region.

In search of the right guide to help improve your riding technique? Look no further than the Elements Outdoorsports bike school. From protective clothing to bikes, the right equipment is available for purchase or hire at the Sport 2000 Simon and Sport Mitterer sports shops.

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