

Winter 2020/21 in Vorarlberg

Vorarlberg is considered the cradle of Alpine skiing. Ever since the early 20th century, the art of skiing has been cultivated and refined here. Innovations such as heated chairlift seats hail from this compact region in Austria's very west. Winter wonderland can best be explored while ski touring, freeriding, cross-country skiing, winter hiking and snow-shoe rambling.

Currently, Austria's westernmost federal state is preparing for a winter unlike any other: The **Winterkodex Vorarlberg** is a visible and tangible safety concept for winter tourism in Vorarlberg and summarises the resources and measures in place to ensure a carefree, and above all safe, holiday for guests and locals. The guidelines developed are uniform throughout the state, go above and beyond the legal minimum, and are adapted to fit the guest's activities at the destination.

One of these measures is a free Covid 19 cancellation insurance for all guests who will book or have already booked a winter holiday at a listed Vorarlberg accommodation establishment. Furthermore, the Winterkodex Vorarlberg also includes the obligation of contact tracing in Vorarlberg's gastronomy establishments in order to recognise chains of infection and to interrupt them as early as possible, a mask requirement for guests and employees at certain locations, an obligatory prevention and hygiene concept as well as the appointment of a Covid-19 representative and ongoing employee trainings in all tourist establishments in Vorarlberg.

All continuously updated information on the Winterkodex Vorarlberg can be found at winterkodex.vorarlberg.travel/en

Skiing destination Vorarlberg

Vorarlberg has enjoyed a long-standing reputation as a pioneer of **Alpine skiing**: some 110 years ago, the foundations of Alpine skiing were laid on the Arlberg. With nearly two thirds of Vorarlberg situated above 1,000 m altitude, it features the ideal topography. Valleys and mountain ranges structure the area into compact natural spaces that are pleasantly small in size. Its favourable position at the rim of the Northern Alps makes for an abundance of natural snow. Many **ski areas** reach up to snow-sure altitudes from 1,400 to 2,400 m, the most prominent being Lech Zürs am Arlberg in Austria's largest interconnected ski area, or Montafon. Often, you will be able to take in sweeping views of awe-inspiring mountains. The landscape is imposing, but never craggy, as might be the case at higher altitudes. There is plenty of space to allow for a good mix of gentle and demanding runs. Many resorts boast a combination of groomed and ungroomed slopes. There is a long tradition of **freeriding** in Vorarlberg. When setting out for open-terrain skiing, be mindful of your safety and take a professional guide who is familiar with the terrain and can expertly assess the snow conditions.

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Tailor-made programmes for skiers

Etching the first trail on pristine slopes, in the small hours of the morning, with a small group: a pleasurable adventure skiers can enjoy in several resorts. Ski safaris and guided exploratory tours of the ski areas are also on offer, as well as the opportunity to throw a glance behind the scenes of ropeway and cable-car operations. Ski schools run courses and guided ski touring and freeriding programmes. A range of snow parks cater to freestylers and snowboarders.

Off-piste

Vorarlberg boasts a well-developed network of winter-hiking trails, including many cleared and well-groomed options. Guided snow-shoe rambles are organised during the day and also at night-time in some resorts. Bregenzerwald and Brandnertal have some lovely cross-country skiing. Vorarlberg's highest cross-country trails are situated at 2,032 m high Silvretta-Bielerhöhe heights. There is a choice of numerous toboggan runs, some illuminated at night. You can also go for a husky sleigh ride, or camp out for the night on the mountains in an igloo.

More information: www.vorarlberg.travel/skiing

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