

## **A natural treasure for outdoor fans: Alpenwelt Karwendel in Bavaria**

**The Alpenwelt Karwendel, which filled none other than Barack Obama with enthusiasm, area lies about 100 kilometers south of Munich. Here, nature shines with Alpine variety and one of the last wild river landscapes in Europe. Surrounded by mountains, hillside meadows, creeks, and lakes, vacationers can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities – from hiking, climbing, biking, and trailrunning to tobogganing and cross-country skiing.**

Barack Obama and the other heads of state invited by Angela Merkel to Alpenwelt Karwendel for the G7 summit in 2015 were highly impressed by "picture book Bavaria". Yet they only caught a glimpse of all the natural beauty that outdoor lovers and vacationers enjoy here: the wide valley of the youthfully wild river Isar, diverse flora and fauna, cultural Alpine landscape with sheep and goat pastures, idyllic forests, small bathing lakes, meadows, and rocky peaks. Right in the middle are the three Alpenwelt towns of Mittenwald, Krün, and Wallgau, surrounded by the Karwendel Alps and foothills as well as the Wetterstein with Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze.

The best view can be seen from a gondola trip with the Karwendel Railway, Germany's second-highest mountain railway. The "Bergwelt Karwendel" nature show lies beside the mountain station like the telescope of a giant. At an altitude of about 2,300 meters, it shows the world of the high mountains with an enormous panorama that opens up the beautiful Isar valley. 700 kilometers of hiking trails lie at your feet – on three floors, so to speak: on the bottom floor, lakes provide the opportunities for a fun bathing experiences and 12 thematic trails for diversity. Between them, bubbling brooks join to create a natural spectacle. In the "Leutascher Geisterklamm" (haunted ravine) for example, you can hike on secure metal bridges up to 75 meters over the chasm – a must for families with children. The second floor offers a comfortable array of meadows, cottages, and foothills, such as the Kranzberg mountain of about 1400 meters. On a nostalgic chairlift for one, it offers a picture-book panorama and barefoot path with over 24 fanciful stations. Finally reaching the top floor, mountain climbers scale the 2000 meter mark; eight can be conquered on the Mittenwald climbing route alone, a panoramic tightrope walk on the border with Tyrol.

Mountain bikers appreciate Karwendel as one of the best regions of the Alps. There, they can test their strength on tours with over 1,000 kilometres and 30,000 metres of elevation. Casual bikers have a variety of routes at their disposal as well, such as the Isar bike trail, which follows Bavaria's third-largest river all the way to Munich. Or they can indulge in a refreshing bath in one of the mountain lakes.

In the winter, the Alpenwelt Karwendel area is ideal for casual winter athletes and families. While cross-country skiing, skiing, winter hiking, or snowshoeing, you can enjoy 900 meters above the sea level of snow-covered landscape and natural calm. Families prefer the ski resort on the Kranzberg with its toboggan run, while freeriders work out on Germany's longest ski route at the Dammkar. The 150 kilometer long trail network and the guest biathlon follows in the footsteps of Olympic biathlon champion Magdalena Neuner from Wallgau.

Be it on a barefoot hike, a bicycle tour with a stop for a swim, or a cross-country skiing outing, the touring module of Alpenwelt Karwendel makes it easy to plan leisure activities. You can choose from around 90 well-described tours in the area of Mittenwald, Krün, and Wallgau online.

Besides all these outdoor opportunities, Alpenwelt Karwendel is also extremely rich in Bavarian culture. Cozy cottages and restaurants with beer gardens abound as well as Germany's highest private brewery, lively customs with authentic costumes and folk music, Alpine architecture with facade frescoes, and the world-famous violin-making tradition of the "Bavarian Stradivaris".

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