

**A carpet of pure white snow for winter fun
Action in the snow, the aroma of glühwein, mountain hut magic
and countless sporting opportunities in an Alpine snowscape**

Hall-Wattens: Nestling between the massive Karwendel mountain range and the Tux Alpine foothills, in wintertime, the Hall-Wattens region resembles a white pearl. Whatever you are, an experienced mountain-climber, a Sunday tobogganer, a snowshoe walker, a cross-country enthusiast or a snowboarder - you are sure to encounter an amazing wintersports scene here. To round off an active day, you can enjoy convivial mountain hut get-togethers with family or friends, torch-lit walks, romantic hot punch stands and the festive atmosphere of a Christmas market - all against the backdrop of what could easily be a medieval stage-set.

Wherever you are in the world, ask people what they associate with the Tyrol and the answer will invariably be skiing and mountains. After a stay in the heart of the Tyrol, visitors to the Hall-Wattens region are sure to concur with that. From whichever of the eleven resorts in the region you are in, you can be heading helter-skelter down a ski slope in no more than 20 minutes. The Tyrol's longest downhill, some 15 km in length, is to be found on the Glungezer, Hall's house mountain. Skiers and snowboarders can glide down a total of 22 km at altitudes of between 950 and 2,304 m well into spring. Wintersports enthusiasts adore warming up fingers and toes in a traditional mountain hut while tucking into proper Tyrolean fare. The delightful high-alpine magic there is much loved by ski tourers after making the safe uphill climb. The Glungezer hut is a popular meeting place, as they pause over a delicious plate of dumplings or a warming soup before making the downhill run. Other mini-lift systems in the region are ideal, not just for skiers on last-minute breaks, but also for beginners, who generally prefer well-groomed pistes and snow-assured slopes.

Cross-country is the perfect alternative to skiing and options here include a 20 km or a 27 km trail. These two picturesque tracks are free and always superbly prepared. After tracking across sunshine plateaus in unspoilt countryside, cross-country fans will feel fully "recharged", before they return to the daily routine.

Classic tobogganers and Sunday tobogganers, family tobogganers and show-off tobogganers, skilful and hesitant ones, the daring and the cautious, night-time and day-time tobogganers - none will be disappointed by what they find in the Hall-Wattens region. Somewhere here is everyone's ideal toboggan run. The one in the rugged Hall valley nature conservation area is steep and varied. The track from Gnadewald beside a toll road is winding, but family friendly. The run in Volders is always

well-groomed and can promise a varied mix of conditions to suit families and sports tobogganers. At night the Vögelsberg run in Wattens is illuminated, so evening tobogganers are always very welcome. A tobogganing trip up the Möls valley entails a long climb to the end of the Wattentalstrasse, but it is well worth the effort if only for the panoramic view over the upper Möls valley.

If you've ever ridden on a "klumper", then the Hall-Wattens region is the right place to be. Tulfes is the only klumper resort in Austria. Since the World Klumper Championships were staged here in 2006, racing downhill on this unusual single-runner toboggan has become a highly fashionable wintersports activity. A metal runner is attached beneath the carrier board as a ski and then a wooden seat placed crosswise on top. Imported into Austria from the World Championships in the South Tyrol in 1972, "klumpfern" has taken off in a big way among both guests and locals. The season restarted at the end of December 2007 and klumper events take place every week on the outskirts of Tulfes.

Float over a metre-high layer of snow without sinking. Glide gently and safely over snowy meadows and fields. With showshoes attached to your winter boots, you can clamber up distant mountaintops or simply stroll along at a leisurely pace at one with nature. Countryside trails and circular walks, guided tours or contemplative strolls fill the lungs and blow all cares away.

And what if the weather doesn't play ball. It's grey, wet and cold outside. When the mountains are so close, but no longer visible because of the mist, then working out in a properly-equipped fitness centre would seem to be the natural thing to do. If you've got aching muscles from skiing, klumping, ski touring or snowshoe walking, then the best treatment by far is a sauna or a steam-bath. The region boasts a good number of "wellness" centres, where strained muscles, tired bodies and stressed souls can be pampered on request. And who knows, perhaps after all that perspiring, massaging and relaxing, the weather will be a little more inviting and you will be able to see out the day with a romantic torch-lit walk through tranquil, snow-covered countryside or enjoy a session on one of the region's ice-skating rinks to the sound of lively disco music.

Hall-Wattens has mastered the fine art of seduction like no other region in the Tyrol. Every year, the eleven towns and villages of Absam, Baumkirchen, Fritzens, Gnadental, Hall in Tirol, Mils, Thaur, Tulfes, Volders, Wattenberg and Wattens welcome visitors from all over the world. Breathtaking wonders of nature meet up with historic town centres and an unparalleled programme of cultural events. Valued traditions and idyllic villages coupled with a lively cosmopolitan atmosphere. And last but not least, ultra-modern hotels, delightful guest-houses, cosy pubs and superb restaurants powerfully reflect the region's special character.

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