

PRESS RELEASE

New Grawa Observatory along the WildeWasserWeg in the Stubai Valley

The newly built structure at Grawa Waterfall impresses with its architecture while blending perfectly into the landscape.

Stubai Valley, 2019: The WildeWasserWeg is the number one summer attraction to visit in the Stubai Valley. The Grawa waterfall, the heart and origin of the trail, is especially attractive. Many people also like to visit the widest waterfall in the Eastern Alps to enjoy the soothing effect of its fine spray. A specially built platform at the foot of the impressive natural spectacle enables visitors to comfortably indulge in its therapeutic effect. Unfortunately, it was so badly damaged during a storm in the summer of 2017 that a new one had to be built. The extensive project was completed in just under two years, and now the new Grawa Observatory a novel attraction along the WildeWasserWeg. It is almost in the same place as before and is barrier-free. An architectural highlight, it blends perfectly into the landscape while seeming to transfer the flowing movement of the water onto its surroundings.

After being hit by a severe storm in August 2017, sections of the WildeWasserWeg had to be renovated and repaired. Though much of the damage was quickly repaired and the trail was soon in use again, the damaged platform at the Grawa waterfall had to be completely rebuilt in the end. Restoring the platform to make it accessible and barrier-free, capable of withstanding large volumes of water, and to fit it into the landscape required highly detailed planning that included feasibility studies, expert opinions, approval procedures, and selecting the right partners. The project began in 2018.

From the start of the 2019 summer season on, when the new structure, the Grawa Observatory, is fully completed also with the comfortable wooden loungers on it, visitors will have again the opportunity to relax on the platform and enjoy the healthy impact of the waterfall to its fullest.

Although the new Grawa Observatory is based on the old structure, its wave-like design is reminiscent of glacier moraine deposits, which have been left in the form of stairs. It harmonises with the landscape and calms the spectacularly falling glacier water thanks to the flowing form of the balustrade, while seemingly passing the movement of the water on to the surroundings. The Observatory not only allows visitors to extend their stay at the soothing waterfall, but also forms a bridge that crosses the front part of the structure and can be accessed from two sides. It includes an open space for visitors to take photographs and catch their breath. The rear part consists of four levels for sitting and stretching out. The uppermost level – 180 cm above the access level – deliberately does without loungers in order to ensure a smooth flow of visitors. To ensure both the best possible view and a sense of safety, the full-surface balustrades stand 65 cm high. A custom-made iron railing above it protects visitors from falling. The entire Grawa Observatory is barrier-free, making it ideal for visitors with prams and wheelchairs.

Local partners were commissioned with all the construction work involved. The official opening ceremony for the new Grawa Observatory at the Grawa Waterfall is scheduled for 7 July 2019.

STUBAI VALLEY – Moves You!

The Stubai Valley in the Tyrol is located near the state capital of Innsbruck and is – thanks to the Brenner Motorway – easy to reach from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. 35 kilometres long, surrounded by 80 glaciers and 109 mountains with 3,000 metres peaks, the Stubai Valley has five main villages: Neustift, Fulpmes, Telfes, Mieders and Schönberg. Its year-round programme is particularly popular for active holidaymakers: the Stubai Glacier, the largest glacier ski region in Austria, offers the finest skiing enjoyment until mid-June. Varied summer programmes and a superbly developed 65 km network of alpine huts and trails also await holidaymakers at the “Wanderzentrum” (hiking centre) Schlick 2000 in Fulpmes, in the hiking region of the Serlesbahnen cable cars near Mieders or the Elferbahnen cable cars in Neustift. In summer, visitors can enjoy hiking, climbing, mountain biking, paragliding with excellent thermal updrafts, rafting, kayaking, Nordic walking, tennis, yoga, swimming and many other kinds of sport in the open air.

One five-star hotel, four four-star-superior hotels, 31 four-star hotels, three three-star-superior hotels, 37 three-star establishments, and around 4,700 beds in holiday apartments and guest houses with a high standard, as well as traditional farmhouses and three camping places, offer comfortable accommodation for every requirement.

Numerous special offers, such as free travel on buses, the Stubai Valley railway and the mountain cable cars, as well as entry to the swimming pools at Neustift and Mieders, are included in the **Stubai Super Card**, which you automatically receive from May to October when checking in to stay at participating establishments. Children under the age of 10 can travel on all cable cars free when accompanied by a paying parent.

The Tourist board Stubai Tirol provides information about current offers, dates and events on the website www.stubai.at. The online accommodation search helps you to find the right accommodation for your holiday. It's possible to simply send enquires by email at info@stubai.at or by phoning +43 (0)501881-0. Stubai Tourism are delighted to help you find package deals or to organise and arrange transfers to/from the airports of Munich and Innsbruck – just contact them at tel: +43 (0)501881-170 or 171 or by email at stubaitouristik@stubai.at.

You can find downloadable images in our press portal at www.stubai.at/en/press/

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