**Innsbruck region: Feel the thrill in the air at the European Women’s Handball Championship**

**As November draws to a close, Innsbruck will be ready to throw itself fully into the European Women’s Handball Championship. A total of twelve preliminary round matches are set to be played in the Tyrolean capital, where the Austrian national team will join the likes of Germany, the Netherlands and defending champions Norway at the Olympiahalle arena in the battle to progress to the next stage. Aside from all the sporting action, there will be plenty more to discover in and around Innsbruck while the tournament is under way, with the city’s Christmas markets and local ski resorts due to open for the season.**

Two groups, eight teams, twelve matches, plenty of passion and handball at its highest standard – sports fans coming to Innsbruck between 28 November and 3 December 2024 are in for a real treat. The capital of Tyrol will be hosting the preliminary round matches in Groups E and F at the Women’s EHF EURO 2024 handball championship, which is being held across Austria, Hungary and Switzerland. The excitement is sure to be running high as some of Europe’s top handballing nations take to the courts in this alpine city – including reigning title holders and Olympic champions Norway, 2019 world champions the Netherlands, Germany (seventh at the last European Championship in 2022) and handball-mad Iceland. And they are not the only contenders: Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine and – of course – the home team Austria will be doing everything they can to make it to the next round too. So get ready for some thrilling contests at the Olympiahalle! More information and tickets are available online at [www.catchthespirit2024.com](http://www.catchthespirit2024.com).

**Plenty of choice for chilling out in Innsbruck’s winter wonderland**

For those keen to enjoy the experiences this alpine-yet-urban hub has to offer before, during or after the European Women’s Handball Championship, you’ve come at the perfect time. November is when the first of the local ski resorts open for the season, starting with Axamer Lizum, Kühtai and Nordkette. Muttereralm, Patscherkofel and Rangger Köpfl follow soon afterwards, opening their perfectly prepared pistes from early/mid December. This is also the time when Innsbruck’s seven Christmas markets spring to life. Spread across the city, they never fail to get visitors in a festive mood ready for Christmas. Alongside art, crafts and gifts, the main delights to discover at the many charming stalls are all the culinary specialities on offer. And who knows? Maybe you’ll bump into a handball star or two while you’re sampling a traditional “Kiachl” pastry and punch!

***About Innsbruck Tourismus***

*Innsbruck Tourismus is the official destination management organisation for the Innsbruck region, encompassing the capital of Tyrol and over 40 localities in the surrounding area, from the Inntal valley to the Mieming Plateau via Kühtai and as far as the Sellraintal valley. With almost 3.5 million overnight stays (as of 2019), the Innsbruck region is one of Austria’s largest tourism institutions – a unique symbiosis of pulsating urban space and fascinating Alpine world. The vibrant city atmosphere and sightseeing highlights are just a stone’s throw from your next biking or hiking tour, your next ski adventure or winter walk. The Welcome Card, free for visitors, is the key to the region’s boundless opportunities: public transport, usable at no cost, means that the area’s numerous highlights can be enjoyed both sustainably and comfortably. Visitor enjoyment is the focus of the thoughts and actions of each of the organisation’s 90 or so staff: they pass on their passion and enthusiasm for this alpine-urban space to guests, ensuring unforgettable holiday experiences for all in harmony with both people and nature. With a total of twelve tourist information offices, Innsbruck Tourismus can stay close to visitors, be right in the action and keep a finger on the pulse of events – a true hub for the authentic stories and personal impressions of local characters that can be found on the popular* *blog* *and social media channels at #myinnsbruck.*

***Further links***

*Blog:* [*www.innsbruck.info/blog*](http://www.innsbruck.info/blog%20)

*Facebook:* [*www.facebook.com/Innsbruck*](http://www.facebook.com/Innsbruck)

*Instagram:* [*www.instagram.com/innsbrucktourism*](http://www.instagram.com/innsbrucktourism)

*Twitter:* [*twitter.com/InnsbruckTVB*](https://twitter.com/InnsbruckTVB)

*YouTube:* [*https://www.youtube.com/user/InnsbruckTVB*](https://www.youtube.com/user/InnsbruckTVB)

*Pinterest:* [*www.pinterest.at/innsbrucktvb/\_created*](http://www.pinterest.at/innsbrucktvb/_created)

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