Gurgl: Premium Skiing in the Diamond of the Alps

The premium destination of Gurgl, located at the far end of the Ötztal valley, combines high-alpine skiing with no lift queues, outstanding hotels, fine dining and first-class infrastructure. This commitment to quality truly lives up to Gurgl's reputation as the "Diamond of the Alps". With the season kicking off early on 19 November 2026, Gurgl will be among the first winter ski resorts in the Alps to open. The season's first major highlight follows shortly afterwards, with the Audi FIS Ski World Cup taking place on 21 and 22 November. Further investments in technical snowmaking will ensure even greater snow reliability, while a new digital ski pass available directly on smartphones will offer added convenience.

Gurgl is one of Austria's highest and most snow-sure ski areas. Winter sports enthusiasts looking for exceptional quality and plenty of space can enjoy 112 kilometres of perfectly groomed slopes at elevations ranging from 1,800 to 3,030 metres, served by 25 modern lifts. Seven state-of-the-art feeder lifts in Obergurgl and Hochgurgl provide fast and convenient access to the ski area. The wide-open pistes offer an average of around 400 square metres of space per skier – from mid-November until the end of April.
Gurgl's high-alpine setting remains ever-present, even when taking a break from the slopes. Perched on the Wurmkogel ridge at 3,030 metres, the **Top Mountain Star** 360-degree panorama bar offers views extending as far as the Dolomites on clear days. **Festkogl Alm** and **Hohe Mut Alm** serve regional and international cuisine in a charming mountain-hut atmosphere, complete with sun terraces and panoramic views of Gurgl's mountain scenery. The **First Line** experience gives early risers the opportunity to make the first tracks on freshly groomed pistes with a guide – before the ski area officially opens for the day – followed by an excellent mountain breakfast at Hohe Mut Alm. The experience can be booked from February onwards.

Winter Experiences Beyond the Slopes

There is also plenty to discover in Gurgl beyond a classic day of skiing. Around 12 kilometres of high-altitude cross-country trails offer beginners and ambitious recreational skiers an effective workout amid spectacular panoramic scenery. A further 20 kilometres of groomed winter hiking trails, guided and self-guided snowshoe hikes and ski tours, as well as an ice-skating rink in Obergurgl, provide additional ways to experience the tranquillity of the mountains. A firm family favourite is the three-kilometre natural toboggan run from Hochgurgl to Pill, featuring 25 bends.

Investing in the Winter of Tomorrow

Behind the scenes, Gurgl is continuously developing its infrastructure with the years ahead in mind. At Gaisberg in Obergurgl, the lift operators have constructed a new **water storage reservoir** with a capacity of approximately 74,000 cubic metres. Water can be collected under favourable conditions and then used for snowmaking as required during the winter months.
Ticketing is also becoming even more convenient: for the first time, one- and two-day ski passes will be available this winter as **mobile tickets** on smartphones. Guests can therefore pass straight through the turnstiles and head directly onto the slopes without waiting.

Exceptional Accommodation and Fine Dining

One of Gurgl's hallmarks is its short distances: 90 per cent of all guest beds are located less than 250 metres from the nearest lift or piste, ensuring a relaxed **ski-in, ski-out** experience. At an elevation of 2,000 metres, **25 four- and five-star hotels** welcome guests with stylish surroundings, excellent wellness and indulgence programmes, and genuine hospitality.

Hotel Riml was recently awarded five-star status, while **Hotel Hochfirst** has joined the carefully curated Quality Lodgings network. Gurgl also sets the highest culinary standards. Three restaurants – Grünerhof, Hotel Hochfirst and Gourmet & Wine Hotel Austria, which additionally holds a Michelin star – have been awarded prestigious Gault&Millau toques and shape the resort's gourmet scene. The fine-dining cuisine at Hotel Edelweiss & Gurgl has likewise received numerous accolades.
A new address for food lovers is **Café Panora** at Alpenresidenz am Mühlbach. Located on the top floor, it will serve breakfast, snacks and homemade cakes, alongside a bar overlooking the Ötztal Alps, from the beginning of the season.
The **Perrier-Jouët gourmet gondola** promises another elevated culinary experience. During a private journey on the Kirchenkar gondola, guests are served exquisite specialities from the Top Mountain Crosspoint restaurant. The experience can be booked from mid-November until the end of April.

A First-Class Events Programme

From sport and music to culture and social gatherings, Gurgl's event calendar offers a varied programme from the start of the season through to spring.

On **21 and 22 November 2026**, the **Audi FIS Ski World Cup** will return to Gurgl for the fourth consecutive year. As the world's best slalom racers compete on the challenging Kirchenkar course, a festive atmosphere will fill both the finish area above Top Mountain Crosspoint and the entire ski resort. An entertaining support programme on the forecourt and in the foyer of Gurgl Carat in Obergurgl will round off the competitions in fitting style.

From **10 to 12 March 2027,** the exclusive **Diamond Beats** winter festival returns to the far end of the Ötztal valley. Orchestral soundscapes meet contemporary DJ beats, merging in the heart of the ski area to create a symphony of skiing, Alpine cuisine and unforgettable moments. Packages for this immersive experience will be available to book from the end of the year.

Smaller highlights can be enjoyed throughout the season. Popular **night-time tobogganing in Hochgurgl** is a weekly highlight under the stars from mid-December to mid-April. Every Monday in Obergurgl and every Thursday in Hochgurgl, the pistes are illuminated by floodlights for atmospheric **night skiing.**

At the heart of many events – and an impressive setting for meeting and exchanging ideas – is the **Gurgl Carat congress and event centre** in the centre of Obergurgl. With flexible spaces for up to 520 people, state-of-the-art media technology and striking architectural design, it provides ideal conditions for conferences, concerts, exhibitions and markets. Gurgl Carat plays a key role in the resort's reputation as Europe's highest event village.

Ten Years of Pure Motorcycle Passion

The **TOP Mountain Motorcycle Experience** World in Hochgurgl celebrates a special anniversary this winter. For ten years, Europe's highest motorcycle museum has presented an extraordinary collection of vehicles steeped in history at an elevation of 2,175 metres, set against the spectacular backdrop of Top Mountain Crosspoint.

Today, this multimedia attraction houses more than **500 historic motorcycles** and rare exhibits across approximately 4,500 square metres. A 4D cinema, motorcycle simulators and interactive stations create an immersive and inspiring visitor experience for motorcycle enthusiasts and curious visitors alike.

The Entire Ötztal on One Ski Pass

Guests wishing to extend their winter holiday beyond Gurgl can use the **Ötztal Superskipass** to access more than 360 kilometres of slopes and 90 lifts throughout the valley. The upgrade is included with ski passes valid for three days or more.

Passes of six days or longer also include free admission to the 007 ELEMENTS James Bond cinematic installation in Sölden and the TOP Mountain Motorcycle Experience World. Guests who book their Gurgl and Sölden ski passes online in advance can also benefit from attractive savings.

Getting to Gurgl

Conveniently timed rail and bus services ensure a relaxed journey to the far end of the Ötztal valley. During the winter months, the service is supplemented by additional direct rail connections, including DB WinterRail, which stops at Ötztal Bahnhof. From there, scheduled buses continue to Gurgl every 30 minutes.

With a guest card, all public transport services throughout the Ötztal valley can be used free of charge during winter.

Further information and a full list of events: www.gurgl.com

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