

AN EVENTFUL WINTER

**GREAT EVENTS IN WINTER 2024:
EXCITING, FUN AND AN AMAZING CHOICE**

Look forward to back-to-back event highlights in Gastein. To give you an idea of our wide range, we'll show you six events that couldn't be more diverse. Whether it's a get-together of sports celebrities, coaching for the younger generation, ice art or a Caribbean-style party, we've got all the important details.



FIS SNOWBOARDING WORLD CUP 16 + 17 JANUARY 2024

Bad Gastein has been a major fixture in the snowboarding calendar since 2001, and over the years the Buchebenwiese has developed into a perfect downhill racecourse – a special "Streif" for snowboarders. This steep slope and the unique atmosphere at the foot of the Stubnerkogel are a great reminder of the classic among ski slopes in Kitzbühel. As always, expect to enjoy a fantastic atmosphere – with the world champion and local hero Andreas Prommegger who won last year's Gastein Valley Parallel Team Event and who is now facing quite a few top athletes from Germany eager to get even. The day before, the focus will be firmly on individual competitions.



CASH4TRICKS 15 FEBRUARY 2024

The Cash4Tricks Tour speaks for itself. If you can perform a cool stunt without falling on your nose, you'll be rewarded five euros for your trick straight-away. It might not make you wealthy, but you'll have lots of fun, and you can share ideas with other freeskiers. You'll also have an opportunity to present your skills to an audience and a professional jury. It's a rewarding experience – and indeed not just for the best. The Gastein Snowpark gives everyone an opportunity for a bit of cash and applause.

AUSTRIA SNOWPARK DAYS 31 JANUARY 2024

Any skiing and snowboarding talents aged 8 to 16 who want to have a bit of fun beyond the slopes shouldn't miss the Austria Snowpark Days at the Gastein Snowpark. Jumps, rails, tubes and suchlike: whether you're new to this scene or advanced, you'll benefit from our professional trainers who are eager to help you hone your skills. The Austria Snowpark Days will be followed by freestyle coaching sessions at the popular Snowpark in the Stubnermulde – true to the motto: practice makes perfect, especially for a trickster.



PALM TREES ON THE ALPS 9 + 10 MARCH 2024

Come and enjoy some palm trees in Sportgastein – before the snow has had a chance to melt. Yes, Alpine palm trees! It's a sight that'll send even the most chilled-out winter athletes into a flutter of Mediterranean ecstasy. The highest section of the Ski amadé slopes is so high that there isn't even a hint of springtime vibes in early March. However, it's a different story on the edge of the slope, where you'll find loungers instead of pub benches, where cocktails are served instead of tea with rum, and where you'll hear Caribbean tunes instead of après-ski music. Look forward to a terrific time, with attractive dancers to get you in the right mood for the approaching spring and its warm sunshine.



ART ON SNOW 3-9 FEBRUARY 2024

Ice and snow are perfect tools, and a wintry landscape is a perfect studio. Enjoy the artwork of local and international artists at the open air exhibition Art on Snow. For the twelfth time, the entire valley will be full of fascinating sculptures – both at village centres and in the mountains. You'll see all kinds of sculptures except stone sculptures. Instead, they're all works of art that change with the weather. And you can also look forward to several photo and multimedia installations.



THE NORTHERN RUN 23 MARCH 2024

The Northern Run – called "Die Nord" by locals – is a well-known feature around here: a steep descent from a high pass, the Hohe Scharte, down to the Schlossalm cable car base station – one of the longest ski descents in the Eastern Alps. Once a year, it turns into a ski racing course similar to a super giant slalom: the Northern Run. The route covers 1,400 metres (4,724 ft) of altitude down to Bad Hofgastein. This year, the challenge is also open to any snowboarders with strong thighs.

LEGAL NOTICE

Editorial team: plenos – Agentur für Kommunikation // Graphic design: 2|4 Designbureau // Printed by gugler* DruckSinn // Published by Gasteiner Bergbahnen Aktiengesellschaft, Bundesstr. 567, A-5630 Bad Hofgastein, Tel.: +43 6432 6455-0, info@skigastein.com, www.skigastein.com



SKIGASTEIN Mountain Views



PEAKS OF SKIING DELIGHTS

**FOUR MOUNTAINS, FOUR CABLE CARS,
FOUR DESCENTS ... AND FIVE CELEBRITIES**

If you want to reach for the top, then the Gastein Valley is exactly the right place for you. Not just because the top station of the Goldberg cable car takes you to the highest point of the Ski amadé region. One special feature of our region is that you can always access your skiing pleasures close to the mountaintop. In this new edition of Mountain Views, you will discover some interesting details about four of our peaks and their descents to the valley.

To be more precise, this information doesn't come from us, but from several renowned locals who know "their" mountains like no one else. Hans Grugger

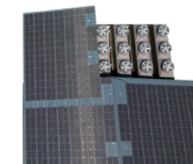
clinched victory in four individual races in the Alpine Ski World Cup and secured fifth place in the general downhill ratings of the 2004/2005 season. Sandra Lahnsteiner-Wagner is a professional freerider and a film producer with multiple awards to her name. Werner Pflaum served as chairman of the Gastein Tourism Association and was actively involved as a ski instructor for many years. And the two brothers Thomas and Christian Egger won several ski world championships for restaurateurs.

Read more on [page 4/5](#) >

PAGE 2

SUNNY PROSPECTS

Gasteiner Bergbahnen are fully committed to the sun as a source of energy. Thanks to new installations, our photovoltaic output has more than quadrupled within one year. Further initiatives are in progress, all supporting our goal of becoming a climate-neutral ski resort.



PAGE 6

AN ENJOYABLE JOB

In 2009, Bernhard Koller was the first apprentice in cable car engineering in Gastein. He is now our operations manager and remains fully committed to his chosen career. So we asked him to give us an interview for Mountain Views.



CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

Dear Guests,

Thank you for reading Mountain Views, which will give you plenty of interesting details about the highlights of our Gastein Valley. This is now the 17th issue of this newspaper, and it's twice as comprehensive as the previous editions, spanning eight pages in all. This is because there's so much we want to share with you, including our event highlights for winter 2023/2024, as well as our exciting new digital features and the latest updates regarding our tickets.

One issue that's particularly close to our hearts in our beautiful ski resort is sustainability. Like in previous years, we've gone the extra mile to ensure your winter sports experience in our valley is not just enjoyable but also more eco-friendly. This commitment extends to our local e-mobility efforts, as the conservation of resources doesn't stop at the "last mile". And an area where we're quite literally on the sunny side is sustainable energy. In just a year, we've installed new solar panels and increased our solar capacity more than fourfold. In doing so, we've been using existing space, without erecting any new structures – a policy to which we are very much committed.

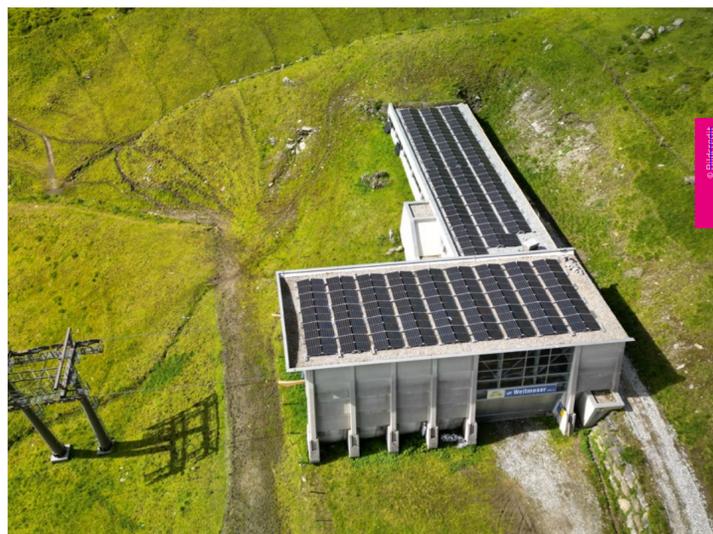
Also, I'm excited to share with you an interview with our operations manager, Bernhard Koller, on page six. He really represents the entire workforce of Gasteiner Bergbahnen, about 250 in all – people who are keen to give you a truly unforgettable winter experience. All of them are highly dedicated to their work, while also being appreciative of the beautiful environment where their workplace is situated. I feel the same.

One very special highlight is an article about our four great descents that take you from Gastein's peaks – the highest in the Ski amadé region – all the way down to the valley. Five outstanding individuals agreed to help us with this endeavour. You may well have met some of them, and perhaps you'll see the others next time you come to us.

As for me, this marks my second winter as CEO of Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG. Following the challenging years of the Covid pandemic, we've experienced a delightful winter season and an extraordinary summer. So it'll be great to see you and many other happy holidaymakers on our slopes again. After all, that's what we're here for!

With my very best wishes from Gastein

Andreas Innerhofer
Andreas Innerhofer
 CEO of Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

LET THE SUN SHINE IN

OVER FOURFOLD RISE IN SOLAR POWER PRODUCTION WITHIN A YEAR

The Gastein Valley doesn't just use renewable energy. It also produces it, and indeed more and more. By now, the solar panels that power its cable cars are sufficient to provide an entire village with electric energy.

Gasteiner Bergbahnen – Gastein's cable car company – have been running on solar power for several years now, but 2023 was a scorcher in every way: four sets of solar panels were added to the three existing ones, for instance on the roofs of the Weitmoser top station and the Aeroplan pump station. Quite recently, work was completed on the Solar Park at the Schlossalm base station, where 15 "solar trees" were set up at the car park, without destroying any of the grassland. The panels with green "trunks" differ in height, creating a pleasantly harmonious overall view.

Our total output has risen from 130.52 to 606.62 kWp. To give you some idea: one kilowatt peak is enough to generate nearly 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in central Europe, and five are enough for a family of four. 600 can cater for about 500 people.

As well as generating electricity, some of the solar power is also used for heating purposes. The Schlossalm base station now has a combination

of a heat pump and a ground storage tank that covers its entire demand for heating and hot water, while a heat recovery system is used in Sportgastein.

A mixture of measures for maximum efficiency

While lifts, snowmaking systems and essential facilities require additional energy, Gastein's cable cars run entirely on certified green energy. At the same time, efficiency is a major priority, ensuring that nothing is wasted: whether it's load control for cable cars and snowmaking machines, melt water in a storage pond, or indeed fences guarding against snowdrifts or GPS gauges measuring the depth of the snow.

Also, our HVO pilot project is currently heralding a switch to biofuel. HVO, a diesel based on hydro-treated vegetable oil, achieves a substantial reduction in carbon emissions. It's another step to make Gastein a climate-neutral ski resort.

SOLAR POWER PRODUCTION FIGURES IN GASTEIN	Location	Year of installation	kWp*
	Stubnerkogel Base Station	2021	43.52
	Schlossalm Base Station	2021	17.00
	Schlossalm Midway Station	2022	70.00
	Weitmoser Top Station	2023	104.16
	Hohe Scharte Base Station	2023	70.14
	Aeroplan Pump Station	2023	201.00
	Schlossalm Base Station Solar Park	2023	100.80
	Total		606.62
	of which: new in 2023		476.10

* kWp, kilowatt peak: measures the output of a solar panel. It is the maximum electrical output under standard conditions.

ANALOGUE AND DIGITAL SIGNPOSTS

IN 2023/2024, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND THE PISTES IN GASTEIN BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE.

Sun on your face, snow under your feet and a unique view of the Hohe Tauern – all that is twice as much fun when you know exactly where you are.



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

"The boundaries between analogue and digital communications are becoming increasingly blurred. But it's the visitor who is at the centre of the entire customer journey, which is why adding value for our guests is and will remain our top priority."

Markus Papai,
 Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG
 (Head of Marketing & Communications)



© skigastein.com

In the Gastein Valley, that much is clear. All other questions are answered by the new piste guidance system. It clearly shows which run you are on and where you can turn right, left or straight ahead.

So you can leave your smartphone behind. But only on the slopes, because before you get there, there is an extremely useful "digital guide".

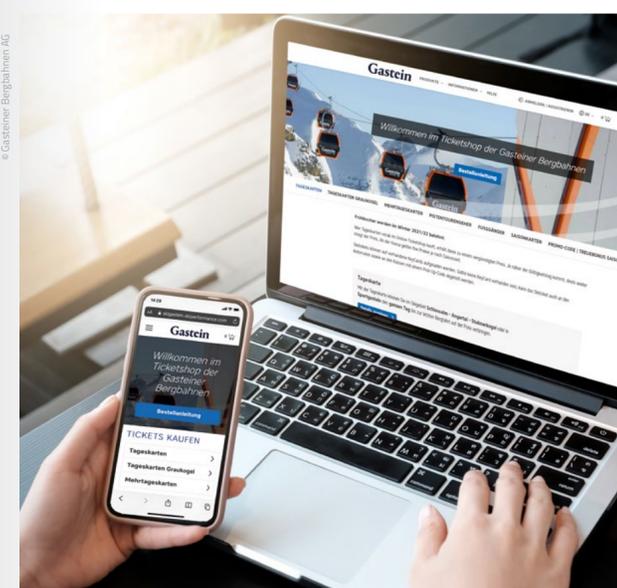
Website skigastein.com relaunched

The website skigastein.com has been redesigned as part of a digitisation drive. The new version is fully responsive, optimised for mobile devices and can be navigated almost like an app. It offers compact information about numerous activities and also includes a "digital guide": an interactive piste panorama contains all the relevant information you need for fun on the slopes in the Gastein Valley.



© skigastein.com, Mr. Mockup

CONVENIENT AND EASY BOOKING VIA THE ONLINE TICKET SHOP



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

SAVE TIME AND MONEY – BOOK EARLY

ENTERING THE SECOND SEASON OF DYNAMIC PRICING: BEST PRICES GUARANTEED IN OUR ONLINE SHOP

Electricity, food, fuel... everything is getting more expensive. Everything? Well, not quite. If you book early in Gastein, you can still beat inflation in the 2023/2024 winter season. Our discount system follows a simple principle: the earlier you buy your ski pass, the cheaper it'll be to get to the highest summits of Ski amadé. So it's worth taking a look at the ticket shop at skigastein.skiperformance.com where you can benefit from the best up-to-date discounts.

However, the offer only applies to online purchases, and the price scale depends on the timing of your trip, the type of ski pass you choose and current demand. One thing is certain, though: the closer you get to your actual trip, the more our online prices approach the prices

we charge at the ticket office. Also, we only have a limited number of early booking tickets. So if you leave it too late, you might not get one.

"We introduced this dynamic pricing system last year. Many of our guests have used it and saved quite a bit of money with it," says Benjamin Rogl, administration manager at Gasteiner Bergbahnen. As well as money, you'll also save time, as you can download your tickets to a key card. You don't need to queue up at the ticket office, and you can enjoy your winter holiday straightaway.

But what if the weather is bad? Well, it's unlikely, as there are fewer rainy days in the Gastein Valley during the winter season than at any other time of the year.

"The all-round view from the Kreuzkogel is absolutely breathtaking. I can really recommend it, especially as the route that leads to it from the top station is quite straightforward. I even managed it in a wedding dress once."

– Sandra Lahnsteiner-Wagner

© Christoph Oberschneider



© Alex Dreyer

MY KREUZKOGEL

**SANDRA LAHNSTEINER-WAGNER:
FUN WITH POWDER SNOW AT THE
HIGHEST POINT OF SKI AMADÉ**

The Goldberg cable car takes freerider Sandra Lahnsteiner-Wagner nicely up to an altitude of 2,650 metres (8,694 ft). It's the highest top station in the Ski amadé region, but there's still more to come, as it's just another 15 minutes up to the summit of the Kreuzkogel, at 2,686 metres (8,812 ft). This is where she can enjoy the wonderful view of the Hohe Tauern range, around 3,000 metres (nearly 10,000 ft) high. The athlete has lingered next to the beautifully designed crucifix numerous times, but this all-round vista never fails to fascinate her.

Eventually, however, it's time to go down again. Naturally, she avoids the well-groomed ski slopes, but chooses the Golden Powder. Like all ski routes, says Sandra, this off-piste descent through powder snow isn't always open. But most of the time, the snow is in superb condition at this height, and the wind is blowing quite gently today.

The Golden Powder route comes directly before the Golden Rush that takes her to the base station of the Goldberg cable car in Sportgastein. If you want to combine the two medium-steep routes, it'll give you a total of 7 km (4.3 miles) and you'll reach an altitude of 1,062 metres (3,484 ft). Not a problem for a pro like Sandra, but everyone else would need a good deal of stamina and some serious leg power, wouldn't they?

"Actually, it's a major requirement for anyone wanting to enjoy themselves in powder snow," says the award-winning film producer. "In all, though, I think the Kreuzkogel ski routes are equally well suited for novices." "However," she adds, "it's vital to have the right equipment." A probe, shovel and avalanche transceiver should never be missing in open terrain.

MY NORTHERN ROUTE

**HANS GRUGGER: 10 KM (6.2 MILES)
ON ONE OF THE LONGEST DESCENTS
IN THE EASTERN ALPS**

Hans Grugger no longer remembers all the details, but he reckons he must have been four or five years old when he mastered the Northern Route for the very first time. One major challenge for little Hans was the steep Lärchenhang slope. Nowadays, of course, this piste no longer presents any technical challenges to the former star of the Austrian Ski Federation (ÖSV). "Nevertheless," he says, "I don't often cover the entire route in one go, as it's really quite a long way." However, he is happy to make an exception for Mountain Views.

So off we go to the Hohe Scharte slope above the Schlossalm. The summit of the Mauskarkopf seems close enough to touch, but don't be fooled: it's further than it looks. We still need to master more than 10 km (6 miles) and 1,440 metres (4,724 ft) in altitude on one of the longest descents in the Eastern Alps before we can enjoy a bit of relaxation at the Weitmoser inn. The first slope is quite steep, but it's followed by a more leisurely section – the calm before the storm, as it were. Then the landscape begins to undulate a bit more, we're gradually beginning

to feel our thighs, and there's clearly no mountain hut for miles around. "Well, you just have to get on with it," says Hans as he chuckles to himself. He's shown an amazing amount of stamina in his active career.

Finally, we get to the bottom of the Lärchenhang slope and we reach the Aeroplan meadow where we can enjoy a rest. The most demanding stretches are now behind us. However, the Northern Route expert prefers to stop a little earlier, so that he can enjoy the lovely view that stretches into the distance. "The most beautiful spot comes straight after the first steep slope, with a few ancient pine trees dotted around. This is where you get a great view of the Gastein Valley all the way to the Hochkönig. From this angle, the valley suddenly seems amazingly wide."

A pity actually that there's no time to enjoy this view during the Northern Run on 23 March. In this traditional amateur contest, every second counts – although most contestants are likely to take at least six minutes.

"The Northern Run hasn't got any crash zones yet. But otherwise it should be perfectly suitable for a World Cup race. The course offers everything from slalom to downhill."

– Hans Grugger



© KTÖB Bad Hofgastein



© Privat

OUR GRAUKOGEL

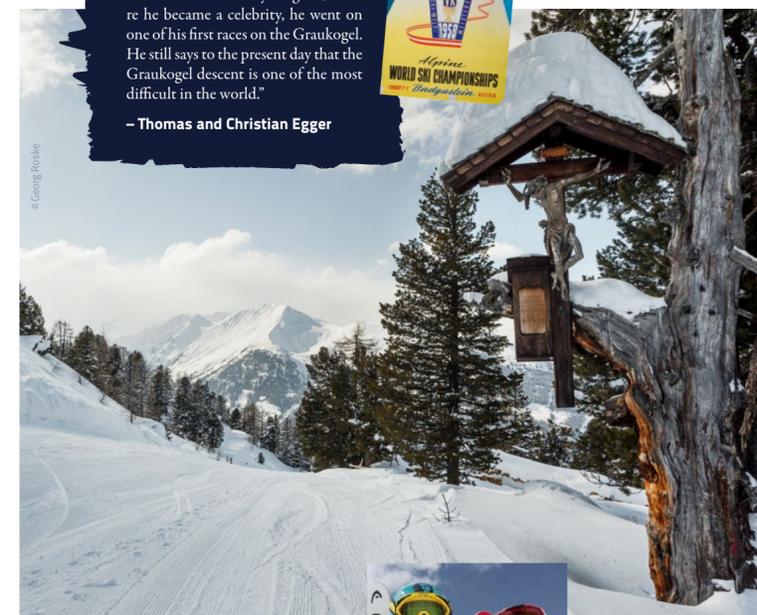
**THOMAS UND CHRISTIAN EGGER:
MEMORIES OF TONI SAILER ON THE
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SLOPE IN 1958**

The two brothers Thomas and Christian Egger won everything there was to win at the Sterne Cup, the ski world championship for restaurateurs. This shouldn't be a surprise, as they grew up in a sporty family, and the Graukogel provided them with the perfect training grounds. Just before our descent to Bad Gastein, Thomas Egger tells us: "My job as a chef took me round the world quite a lot. But I've never seen such a beautiful natural ski slope anywhere else on earth."

Well, beautiful, but also pretty demanding. For the Egger brothers, the relatively leisurely Silver Cup run with its red and blue slopes is not an issue. They're looking forward to the Toni Sailer Route, named after the Austrian sports legend. In 1958, Sailer became a triple world champion on this slope – a few years before Thomas and Christian were born, "but our parents used to talk quite a lot about those world championships," Thomas explains.

Even with the equipment of 1958, skiers were racing down the slopes at over 100 km/h (60 mph), says Christian Egger. He and his brother also enjoy racing down the black slope – although, he adds, "we do actually prefer skiing for pleasure." So, before we start our adventure, we treat ourselves to a hearty local soup at the Graukogel chalet, while having a chat with ski club president Franz Weiss. Refreshments are a really good idea at the midway station on the Graukogelalm – "although with a bit of stamina, it's quite possible to master the whole run in one go," says Thomas Egger.

For him, the Graukogel offers a whole range of special highlights. Starting in late January, for instance, the entire slope is completely in the sun. Also, there's a tree line at the top, so you're always protected from any capricious gusts of wind. And there's never any need for snow cannons here, even nowadays. "But above all, skiing on pure natural snow gives you a wonderful feeling that you rarely get these days."



© Georg Frosche



© TVB Museum

"Marc Girardelli is an old friend of ours. When he was a young lad, before he became a celebrity, he went on one of his first races on the Graukogel. He still says to the present day that the Graukogel descent is one of the most difficult in the world."

– Thomas and Christian Egger



© Privat

"The snow conditions here are always great, which is why the piste is very popular with locals and guests alike. But Slope Number 11 is also very wide, so it doesn't matter if it's busy."

– Werner Pflaum

Early in the morning, it's often bitterly cold in the Anger Valley, which is situated between the Stubnerkogel and the Schlossalm. A few hours later, however, the sun gradually makes its way into one of the region's most beautiful little valleys. Just the right time to tackle Slope Number 11 from the top of the Stubnerkogel. Werner Pflaum has done this lots of times. The former head of the Gastein Tourist Association and ski school manager is now 79, but still uses every opportunity to go skiing.

"The Stubnerkogel is a great mountain because it's got so many descents," says the experienced ski instructor with excitement in his eyes. Werner Pflaum can look back to a great time as a coach in the Austrian Ski Federation, when Franz Klammer was a celebrity. There are three ways to get to the Anger Valley. The classic Slope Number 11 takes skiers to a point just below the Burgstall Lift. "It's definitely the easiest route, which is why we let people start on it after only a week of skiing lessons," says Werner Pflaum.

But there are two other options: lots of fun with powder snow all the way to the Stubner Mulde and a more demanding route down the Sender slope – Werner's special choice for our Mountain Views edition. The Stubnermulde is where all three slopes converge, and then you move down a wide, undulating slope, through the woods, to the Ski and Cross-Country Skiing Centre. It's a great place to sit and have a rest or take the Kasereben cable car to the Schlossalm. Or you can return to the Stubnerkogel on the Sender cable car, which is what we decide to do, because it's impossible to get enough of the 360-degree panorama on the suspension bridge.

MY STUBNERKOGEL

**WERNER PFLAUM: THREE ROUTES
TO THE MAGIC ANGER VALLEY**

»I'M REALLY PLEASED FOR OUR GUESTS«

BERNHARD KOLLER AND THE MAGIC ATTRACTION OF THE GASTEIN VALLEY

In 2009, Bernhard Koller was the first apprentice in cable car engineering at Gasteiner Bergbahnen, and in May 2023 – at the young age of 29 – he became their operations manager. In an interview with Mountain Views, he shares with us why this job is so varied and why being a cable car engineer automatically makes you an early morning skier.

Bernhard, let's look back a bit first: How did you become the first apprentice in cable car engineering in Gastein?

It was a combination of several factors, actually. I grew up on a farm right next to the Schlossalm cable car and spent a lot of time in the mountains. I wanted a manual, technical job, and I'd always been interested in cable cars. So when cable car engineering was officially recognised as a vocational qualification, I immediately thought I'd have a go. And so I did.

What do you find so fascinating about your job?

It's extremely versatile, because it's a mixture of mechanical, hydraulic and electrical engineering. You end up with a different job every day. So much variety is important for young people, even today, and you can see that in the applications we receive for our training vacancies. We train a new apprentice each year and we've currently got four altogether. The training has become very professional now, and in 2020 we opened up a special training workshop for electrical engineering.

Did you think during your apprenticeship that you'd want to be an operations manager one day?

Well, I did actually have it at the back of my mind all the time. However, after my apprenticeship, I joined a different company for a while, Doppelmayr in Vorarlberg, where I saw how they build the lifts we run. Still, I was always happy to go home again for the weekend. So at some stage I realised that I'd love to return properly one day and work for Gasteiner Bergbahnen.

In May this year, you were given primary oversight of the Stubnerkogel, Graukogel and Goldberg cable cars. What exactly does a cable car engineer do in the summer?

It's a question we hear a lot. In my case, I'm still settling into my new role. Generally, we start on maintenance work quite early, in mid-April, when the winter season is finally over. After all, for some of the cable cars, we only have about six weeks until the beginning of the summer operations. Following that, we need to do all the servicing of the lifts that are not in use during the summer.

How was your first summer?

Very successful, in every way. I had super support in my new responsibilities – from other operations managers who've been around for much longer, and also from my deputies. And the guests, of course, were absolutely great. So we even extended our summer operations in some places. Now we're hoping that it'll go on like that in winter.

But if it continues in winter, will you find any time for your own skiing?

Oh yes, even job-wise, actually. You see, before we start running the cable cars with guests in it, we need to check everything. So when I travel up to the lifts just before 8:30 in the morning, enjoying the early sunshine, it's a fantastic feeling.

And during the day?

Well, when the weather is especially nice, I do feel I'd like to get out a bit. However, I always know that I'll have some time to myself soon, and I'll be able to enjoy a lovely day out eventually. Until then, I'm just really pleased for our guests. Good weather, well-prepared slopes and cable cars that run well – what more can you wish for as a cable car engineer?

How has your job developed since 2009, and is cable car engineering getting more digital, like everything else?

When it comes to all the technical bits, yes. I can actually control everything remotely from a monitor at a workstation now. Still, we'll always need humans round here. Although our first priority is the cable cars, we do need to be there for our guests when they need information or when there's been an accident. Also, in winter, at an altitude of 2,600 metres (8,500 ft) above sea level, the weather is an important factor. That's where people are indispensable. They need to be right there, and they need to understand what's going on.



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

THREE TIPS TO ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE



When you come to Gastein, you might prefer a very peaceful experience of nature. Maybe you love the tranquillity of winter, and you want to find your own approach to the mountains and valleys. If so, you can choose between three great options: a couple of skis, a sledge or a pair of walking boots.

1. Early morning skiing

In his interview with Mountain Views, Bernhard Koller describes the special early morning atmosphere on a ski slope. Everyone loves this feeling – including our guests. To give you some early morning skiing, two cable cars are available early every Wednesday, at 7:30, taking you to the Schlossalm and Stubnerkogel. Together with a guide, you can go right to the top for a guided skiing tour. And you can finish in style with a nice big breakfast.

2. Late night tobogganing

Fancy a fun sledge ride under the stars? Not a problem. On Tuesdays and Fridays, from 6 to 6:30 pm, the Schlossalm cable car will take you tobogganing on the Aeroplan

Natural Toboggan Run. It's a great thing to do for families, and of course for romantic couples.

3. Winter walks

Far away from the hustle and bustle, you may want to enjoy a wonderful walk on the Schlossalm. It's about 800 metres (half a mile) and ideal for a bit of exercise while enjoying some stunning views of the beautiful snowy Pongau mountains. If you'd like to exert yourself a bit more, try our Panorama Route (2.2 km, 1.4 miles). It's still quite a relaxing experience, though. Just make sure you remember two simple rules on your winter walk: be careful when you cross a ski slope, and keep away from wild animals and any virgin forest.



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

SUSTAINABILITY DOWN TO THE LAST MILE

IN THE GASTEIN VALLEY, ENVIRONMENTAL TRAVELLING DOESN'T STOP AT THE RAIL STATION.

Travelling by train is all well and good – but how do you get from the rail station to the slopes? Well, transport in Gastein actually covers the very last mile to your destination – with a special focus on e-mobility and on direct routes.



© ÖBB, Martin Rührer

The "last mile" is a term borrowed from the freight industry. It's the last leg of delivery from a shop or warehouse to the end customer, and it presents quite a challenge to the supply chain, as it no longer involves large volumes of goods on fixed routes. Instead, it's all about individual packages which are delivered to different addresses on a daily basis. So this is often the point where passenger transport to winter sports areas can break down. Not so in the Gastein Valley where the Gasteiner Bergbahnen created some good practical solutions for the last mile.

Solution no. 1: the direct route

If you're a guest in Bad Gastein, you'll have no problem at all. From the rail station you get directly to the base station of the Stubnerkogel cable car, where you'll find a ski hire shop and, from this year, a place to store your skiing gear (run by Sport Schober).

If you have a Climate Ticket, you can enjoy 15% discount on a day ski pass – a perk created in 2022. Each year, to make your eco-friendly train journey even more attractive, Gasteiner Bergbahnen and ÖBB (Austrian Rail) offer you a train ticket combined with a one, three

or six-day ski pass. For a list of possible starting points, go to: kombitickets.raittours.at/wintersport-kombitickets/gastein

Solution no. 2: The "e-factor"

There are of course places where a railway line doesn't quite stretch as far as the cable car. That's where e-mobility comes in. Last year Bad Hofgastein saw the birth of a car share project. BÄM Mobility GmbH runs a scheme where you can now rent a car in six different places:

- Parkhaus Schlossalmbahn (multi-storey car park next to the Schlossalm cable car station)
- Kur- und Tourismusverband Bad Hofgastein (the local tourist information point)
- Alpentherme Bad Hofgastein (Alpine Spa)
- Winkler's Gipfelblick Chalet
- Impuls Hotel Tirol
- Hotel Blü

You can also come in your own e-vehicle. The Schlossalm base station alone has 20 brand-new charging points, all served by the Solar Park, while Sportgastein has four, and the Angertal Ski Centre has three. So there are plenty. Therefore, a day's skiing in Gastein will have electric car owners recharging their batteries in more ways than just one.



© Gasteiner Bergbahnen AG

