

Typical Ski Day at Chalet Ty Tom

Morning

Wake early as it is too exciting to stay under the warm duvet. Through the night the fire has automatically kept the living room warm and toasty so no need to worry about feeling cold. If you are lucky you might be woken by Tufty, our local black squirrel, who frequently runs around the walls of the chalet at day break.

Hot showers a plenty to use throughout the chalet so take your pick. Even open the window in either of the en suite shower rooms to smell the cold outside (it can get down to -22 degrees when we have stayed previously).

After the shower and dressed prepare breakfast in the comprehensively kitted out kitchen and eat on the table built for ten. Compare thoughts for skiing and where you are planning to go. We have a Nespresso capsules coffee machine so good idea to bring your favourite capsule blend with you for quick, quality coffee to kick off the day.

For those brave enough step out onto the balcony to experience the cold and check the temperature on the thermometer. Depending how early you are you may even view the piste bashers finishing off on one of the ski slopes across the valley.

Downstairs to get dressed into ski jackets, beanies, gloves and snow boots (all warmed on the boot rack) before heading out. Make sure one of you has the key with you or leave it in the safe for anyone to access (make sure everyone has the code to get into it). Check the thermometer before heading off.

Choose your method to get to the boot room in the village. The walk is ten minutes but warms the muscles up and is beautiful so we always do it. Walk left from the chalet steps, through the chalets, up the steep, short hill (gets the heart, lungs and legs working at this altitude) and then through a snow covered meadow to the reception building. You could also drive (a few minutes) or even catch the ski bus when it comes through (bus stop a few metres up the lane).

At the basement in the reception building you can access from outside with a code (from reception) and dress in your ski boots and collect your skis in the warm, before a short stroll to the lift and the ski school assembly points next to the Kornock lift.

Then ski!

Lunchtime

For a snack stop there are numerous huts dotted around the ski slopes. Every one is warm and cosy inside and has a sun terrace outside. You can have soups, snacks, full scale meals, soft drinks, beers, wine, gluhwein (highly recommended) or Schnapps (also highly recommended) in any one of them. Check out their location on the slopes in the piste map you will be given with your ski pass. Also look out for the Ski Butler's snowmobile. Wherever they stop you can have free Prosecco (for the adults) or free ice cream for the kids!

Back at the bottom of the ski slopes in the village there are numerous restaurants, hotel restaurants, bars and cafes all serving delicious Austrian food. In addition there are vending machines for all sorts of food and drinks.

Our favourites are the K Alm for great food and a party atmosphere. Nice bar and an Apres Ski bar too. On the other side of the lift is Tom's Pizzeria which has home made pizza (big portions) and a variety of other wholesome dishes. Near the beginners slopes there is the Turracherhof Hotel terrace and restaurant plus there is a cafe and bakery in the other direction with scrumptious cakes and bread.

Afternoon

More skiing, or relaxing.

Or for other activities you can walk around the lake; walk around the Three Lakes Walk (DreiSeenRunde) - all signposted; visit the Gem museum at the other end of the village (beautiful minerals, sculptures and quartz crystals); take a ride up the Panorama Gondola up to the Meizeit Alm and take the fixed Nocky Flitzer toboggan back down; use the sledges and toboggans from the chalet store on nearby slopes; try cross country skiing or have a snowball fight!

Evening

Many alternatives in Turracherhoehe.

If going out for dinner then there are a wide variety of restaurants and bars to head to - many in the hotels around the village. For the K Alm, Tom's Pizzeria, the Geneisser Schosshotel Seewirt Michelin gourmet restaurant and any of the other luxury hotels it is probably best to book in advance.

If you also book in advance (information at reception) there is an official toboggan evening under lights across the lake at the Sonnenbahn Lift. The lift takes you and your toboggan up for a ride down the mountain and the ski run back to the lake - as many times as you can manage! I think it is on a Thursday evening - we loved it.

Make sure you take a torch if you head out in the evening, perhaps use your phone. It can be very dark heading back to the chalet.

If it is too cold to be braving the outdoors - and it can be - then staying in the chalet is a wise choice. You can order pizza to go from Tom's Pizzeria but you do have to go and pick it up!

In the chalet you have a fully fitted kitchen for all your meal preparation, so dinners indoors is not a problem.

Following a tiring day on the slopes the two person sauna and the jacuzzi in the chalet are a must to relax muscles and ease aches and pains. The sauna controls are easy to use and there is a radio/CD player in the ceiling (choose a suitable CD from the collection in the living room).

The jacuzzi needs to use a lot of hot water, so turn the hot tap on until it starts going cold (usually over half full) then leave for about 20 minutes before filling the rest. The water needs to cover all the jets before you get in otherwise you will get a horizontal shower soaking you and the spa room! When in press the jacuzzi button (far right) and you are good to go. The jacuzzi cycle runs for about 30 mins. You can view the snow covered mountains and forests from the jacuzzi.

Back upstairs you have a variety of games and entertainment to choose. The TV is connected to the surround sound speakers and the DVD player so choose what you want to watch/listen to. In the shelves are DVD's, CD's books, jigsaws, games and information.

There are rugs provided for those who want to brave sitting out on a steamer chair and viewing the spectacular night sky (the amount of stars visible in the Alps is breathtaking). On the lower balcony is a spacious swing chair to do the same.

It will not be surprising if you get to bed fairly early. At 1800m altitude and after a day in the fresh air and exercising a warm bed is often the priority. With ten beds there is plenty of choice!

Sleep well.