

GOLF AMONG THE MOUNTAINS AND LAKES

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Foto: XXX



Steeply descending mountain slopes, virgin countryside and a fairy-tale lake with crystal clear water right in the middle. We are in the idyllic Achenal valley beside the largest Tyrolean lake Achensee and far from the noisy summer resorts. Locals have succeeded in preserving and maintaining the immense beauty of their region -- and that's good news for visitors.



Where the Emperor once rode

The fairy-tale Achensee lake lies in the north of Tyrol, not far from Innsbruck in the beautiful Alpine countryside surrounded by the mountain passes of Karwendel and Rofan. Achensee is known not only for its singular natural beauty but also for its historical and cultural importance.

For centuries the lake attracted the Tyrolean monarchy. In the 15th century the Hapsburg Emperor Maximilian I sought out the lake for rest and relaxation and here built his summer residence, which has existed up to today in the form of a reconstructed hotel near the lake in Pertisau. Emperor Franz Josef used to stop off here during his trips to Bavaria.

Poets and scholars later discovered the fascinating beauty of the lake. Sigmund Freud also liked to come here to discuss the latest findings of psychoanalysis with his followers. They in no small degree contributed to this region becoming a sought-after destination for today's lovers of natural beauty.

Achensee today

Only a few places in Tyrol today offer such varied possibilities for spending free time like Achensee. The lake shores present unbelievable diversification, amiably flat plains alternate with steep mountain embankments lined with thick forests and craggy gorges. The lake starts at the town of Maurach and from its shores measures 9km lengthwise and 1km wide at its widest point.

Circling the lake, which covers 719 hectares, you will find several resorts: Maurach, Pertisau, Achenkirch, Steinberg and Wiesing. The center of the tourist region is Pertisau. Located on the western shores of the lake about 1,000m above sea level, it is favorite point of departure for mountain hikes and the headquarters of local boat transportation.

Golf & Landclub Achensee in Pertisau

The golf course Golf & Landclub Achensee is the oldest golf course in Tyrol and the second oldest course in Austria. It was established in 1934. After the first modernization in 1995, the golf course was later expanded in 2003 to 18 holes (Par 72, length 6,018m and 5,624m men, 5,272m and 4,887m women).

The first hole starts right in the middle of the Pertisau resort at the clubhouse. After teeing off you take a shortcut between the hotels and pensions. You cross a road beyond the first hole and then find yourself

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COURSE INFORMATION

- **Holes:** 18
- **Par:** 71
- **Length:** Men's white tees 6,018 and 5,624m, women's tees 5,272 and 4,887m
- **Green fees:** weekdays € 55 (discount € 44), weekend and holidays € 60 (€ 48)
- **Season:** May to November
- **Altitude:** 940m
- **Lodging:** Hotel Wiesenhof, www.wiesenhof.at

GOLF UND LANDCLUB ACHENSEE

Address: 6213 Pertisau, • Tirol, Austria
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 Hotel Wiesenhof
 A-6213 Pertisau am Achensee

in the forest, gradually going deep into the valley. Though you are in the Alps, you will not find any dramatic ascents, only gentle slopes. There are numerous dried-up creek beds where you must really be able gauge distance. Perhaps the most demanding is the wide ravine on Hole 16. Only he who really knows how to handle a club will be able hit a drive at least 150 meters in order to clear it.

The view of the Tyrolean lake and ever-present, full-grown forests with larch, pine, and beech trees lend the game an unmistakable character. The golf course stretches across the foothills of the Karwendel massif with its graceful meadows of magnificent Alpine flora and shady coniferous forests. Virtually everyone succumbs to the course's magic. Thanks to an altitude of approximately 1,000 meters, there is normally no heat waves in the summer and a refreshing breeze blows.

The fascinating experience of playing here ends in a dignified manner on the terrace of the clubhouse. The on-site restaurant offers not only local Tyrolean dishes, but international specialities, too.

The golf club in Pertisau can also boast of experienced pros. One such pro, Tom Fankhauser, was born locally and returned after 12 years from the well-know golf region of Bad Griesbach in Germany. He leads courses for beginners and advanced golfers.

It is also worth mentioning the driving range, where it is possible to play from both sides and whose tee boxes are roofed in. Two chipping greens and one putting green are available. The green fee runs €65 on both weekdays and weekends. (www.golfclub-achensee.at)

Where to stay? – surely closest to the golf

As for lodging options, the Wiesenhof Hotel is an excellent find. Lying practically on the first hole, it is just steps from the course. The hotel's owner Mr. Entner, quite the sportsman and man of action himself, offers not only a pleasant atmosphere and tasty cuisines during your stay, but also a very diverse program after your golf game. His hotel also belongs to the founding members of the golf club, thus guests receive a 20% discount on green fees and beginners are offered an hour with a pro for free.

More than 300 years ago Wiesenhof was a farmhouse. At the time no one in their wildest dreams thought that such a pleasant four-star wellness hotel with the tag "Superior" and an expansive four-star wellness center "Karwendeltherme" would one day come out of it. Guests have access to a workout room and fitness studio, saunas, steam baths and outdoor Finnish saunas, which were set up in the former beehouse.

Mountain bikes and large motorbikes for guest rental stand in front of the hotel and paragliding enthusiasts land on the meadow in front of the hotel. For those who do not

want to overdo it with sports and are not too impressed with shiny mountain bikes, you can rent Mercedes convertibles and explore the valley in a more comfortable way. And since the hotel is only a few steps from the lake, you can't miss the range of water sports on offer. From the lake shores at Maurach, where the lake begins, it measures 9km lengthwise and is one kilometer across at its widest point. Thanks to its breadth (719ha) it is a favorite spot for yachtsmen and windsurfers.

Achensee is especially cut out for yachtsmen: the elongated lake is embraced on both sides by mountains, which evoke an thick outflow of air. And when regular afternoon Bavarian winds begin to blow from the north, the yachters are not rebuffed by it. Pan Entner has his own sailboat at the dock so that those interested can give it a try. Those who have a yachting license, can rent the boat, which holds six people.

And we still have not gone through the other sporting themes. Simply head out to Pertisau and try out everything for yourself. 🌲



In Hotel Wiesenhof guests can try baths with healthy stone oils added

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