

## **White and Green Spring Awakening in the Rauris Valley**

**Spring in the Rauris Valley is an extraordinary natural spectacle: while substantial amounts of snow still sparkle on the Gold Mountains, the valleys have long since turned lush green. It is the best time for nature discoveries between rushing mountain streams and waterfalls, between ice and snow.**

The **largest municipality in Hohe Tauern National Park** stretches for 30 kilometres from the **Kitzlochklamm Gorge** to the **Hoher Sonnblick**. In between lies the full diversity of Hohe Tauern National Park. From the pristine side valleys and the **Rauris Virgin Forest** to roaring streams, high waterfalls, centuries-old alpine pastures, vast glacier fields and **mighty three-thousand-metre peaks**, there is an incredible amount to discover in spring. The clear air and gentle sunshine invite visitors to explore **nature** in the **five green side valleys** and up into the snow-covered mountains.

### **Up into the snow of the Gold Mountains**

Anyone who has not yet had enough of snow can join the **national park snowshoe excursion "Winter Forest"**, which still leads through the old Swiss pine and spruce stands of the Rauris Virgin Forest up to the valley head of Kolm Saigurn in April. Around the Easter weekend, the **Hochalmbahnen** cable cars start running once again. **Guided snowshoe hikes** along the Hochalm winter hiking trail, snow scooter rides, tobogganing and ski touring, as well as **Easter bunny treasure hunts** in the snow, draw visitors up to the family mountain. And of course, there is the panoramic view over the **Gold Mountains** and **Hohe Tauern National Park**, as well as the Salzburg Limestone Alps from the **Loferer Steinberge** to the **Dachstein**. **Baron's Hochalm** serves culinary specialities, from spinach dumplings to Erdäpfelnidei.

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## The untamed power of water

As soon as the paths down in the side valleys are free of snow, the landscape begins to sprout all around and hikers set off. During the snowmelt, the **first signs of spring** appear, and the **Seidlwinkltal Water Information Trail** has some exhilarating surprises in store: following the **bubbling Seidlwinklache** upstream, visitors pass the impressive **Spritzbach Waterfall** in all its glory, while the **Litzelhofalm**, **Palfner Alm** and **Gollehenalm** invite hikers to stop for refreshments. At the very end, at 1,526 metres, stands the **Rauriser Tauernhaus**, where pack traders stopped as far back as **500 years ago** when transporting salt and wine across the Alpine passes with their Noriker horses, donkeys or oxen. Later in spring, the tour from the Rauriser Tauernhaus further along the historic pack trail into the core zone of **Hohe Tauern National Park**, all the way to the Hochtor on the **Grossglockner High Alpine Road**, is also a colourful experience. By then, the mountain slopes are dyed purple by **blooming alpine roses**. One of the **most beautiful gorges in the Austrian Alps** is accessible again from May: the **Kitzlochklamm Gorge** at the entrance to the Rauris Valley near Taxenbach. Vast amounts of water surge between the towering, rugged rock walls, creating an **impressive natural spectacle**.

## Flower hikes in June

With the first warm, sunny days of June, it is well worth taking the **flower hiking trail in the Gaisbachtal** towards the **Karalm**. At this time, the meadows bloom in every colour. The **Forsterbachtal** also surprises visitors with magnificent blossoms and dreamlike views of the Hohe Tauern. From June onwards, one of **Austria's best educational trails** through the **Rauris Virgin Forest**, with its **80 dark moor ponds**, is also free of snow, while **gnarled fallen spruces**, **mighty Swiss pines** and **mosses** await with their rich green. Also worth seeing is the **Rauriser UrQuell** near Bodenhaus, where **fresh spring water** continuously bubbles and gurgles from the ground. A little above it lies the fascinating "**Waldgeheimnis**": a spring-fresh little forest lake that can suddenly dry up from one day to the next and then fill again. In

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the Valley of Vultures, **bearded vultures, griffon vultures, golden eagles** and **cinereous vultures** can be spotted in spring as they search for food. The "**Kings of the Skies**" themed trail in the Krumltal is free of snow from June, and **marmots** and **chamois** may also appear in front of the camera. As soon as the **Hochalmbahnen cable cars** start operating on End of May, **families** can join in too. From then on, the **birds of prey observatory, Tilly's Forest Trail** and the **gold panning site** at the Heimalm middle station are also open again.

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