

# Ötztal: Mountain Biking Paradise with Alpine Charm

**Unlimited mountain biking for all levels: between 600 and 3000 meters above sea level the ultimate Ötztal offers everything a passionate biker's heart could possibly desire. Varied routes, free bicycle transport and bike-friendly accommodations are spread all over Inntal's longest side valley. Real pros are warmly invited to discover the area with our experts Karen Eller and Holger Meyer during the 2009 summer months.**

In Haiming, at the entrance to the Ötztal, cyclists enjoy tours at a more leisurely pace – pedaling past apple trees and orchards – while some 60 km southwards real mountain bike fanatics can test their downhill skills amid edelweiss and gentian. Among the undisputed highlights ranks the 4600 meter long **Gaislachkogel Single Trail** starting in Sölden at exactly 3058 meters above sea level. The valley's mountain biking dorado is really unique and offers routes for all preferences and ages. Passionate sportsmen can choose from a wide range of uphill and downhill challenges, breathtaking single trails and theme routes of awesome natural beauty. 883 km of signposted MTB routes are listed in the official trail map, covering incredible 29470 meters of difference in altitude. One of the highlights not to be missed is the splendid Ötztal Mountainbike Trail featuring a total length of 135.6 km and countless attractions that are always worth a visit. The unique trail travels across the valley's 5 terraces, from north to south or the other way round, including countless nature treasures and the area's most scenic peaks accessible also by mountain lifts.

## **A mountain lift ride up to the top of the peak**

Cycling fans who are fond of high Alpine terrain are strongly recommended to try lift-assisted mountain biking. The summer mountain lifts in Obergurgl and Hochgurgl whisk cyclists and their bikes up to the top of Wurmkogel peak where the exclusive "Top Mountain Star" restaurant and panorama bar are waiting for passionate sportsmen. Bicycle transport is free of charge – not only in Obergurgl but also at Acherkogel gondola in Oetz and Gaislachkogel gondola in Sölden. Down in the valley a quick and easy bicycle transport system is guaranteed as well: holders of the ultimate "Ötztal Card" enjoy – besides an infinite number of other highlights and attractions – free use of all public bus lines (bicycle transport included) within the valley. A unique chance to spend car-free holidays in the 65 km long Ötztal Valley. What's more, you can start your tours anywhere because the public bus always takes you back to your accommodation.

## **A warm welcome to all passionate cycling friends**

26 accommodations spread all over the holiday region are specialized in holidays for cyclists and mountain bikers, fulfilling severe quality standards. Among the special services are a lockable bicycle storage room, washing facilities for bicycles, a set of repair tools and materials, a detailed trail map, trail recommendations, plus a lot more. Guided tours and individually designed deals are on the program as

well. Special tour tips are provided by local experts or the host families themselves. Sportsmen on two wheels are warmly welcome throughout the valley! They can choose from a great variety of themed events such as the Ötztal Bike Festival (16 – 17 May 2009), the MTB Cup of Tirol's Insurance Companies (05 July 2009), the Ötztal Cycling Day on the panoramic road to Rettenbach Glacier (19 July 2009) or the "Boy Scout Competition" – a paperchase on Ötztal's most beautiful single trails (01 – 02 August 2009). The absolute highlight of the season for race cyclists is signed by the challenging Ötztaler Cycle Marathon boasting 4000 participants (30 August 2009).

### **Package deals: biking with pros**

Besides detailed trail maps, GPS data and route studies based on Google Earth mountain biking enthusiasts can take full advantage of special packages focusing on the improvement of technical skills complemented with training units. The deals made to measure for mountain bikers are guided by the cycling pros Karen Eller, three-time winner of the Transalp Challenge, and Holger Meyer, downhill professional. Successful training units are guaranteed at the "Ladies Camp" with Karen Eller or the "Single Trail Camp" under the guidance of Holger Meyer. A true highlight for passionate cyclists and nature fans!

Check out all offers at [www.oetztal.com](http://www.oetztal.com)

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