Press Release, October 30, 2026

While Other Mountain Huts Close:

The Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte in the Kaisertal Reopens

Kufsteinerland – While many mountain huts close for the winter in mid-October, a new chapter is beginning at an elevation of 1,388 meters: The Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte on the Zahmer Kaiser has been open again since October 19, 2026. Following extensive renovations, an important year-round stop for refreshments and overnight stays is returning to the Kaisertal.

After about a year and a half of construction, the historic Alpine Club hut is welcoming guests once again. For the Kufsteinerland region, the reopening is a special cause for celebration: with the hut's return, an important base for hikes and multi-day mountain adventures in the Kaiser Mountains is back.

A key destination for days in the mountains and nights at the hut

The Vorderkaiserfelden Hut is far more than just a popular hiking destination. Its location above the Kaisertal valley makes it a starting point for mountain tours in the Zahmer Kaiser range and an important overnight stop on multi-day routes such as the four-day Kaisertour. Its year-round operation, in particular, opens up new opportunities to discover the mountains beyond the traditional summer season.

"We are very pleased that the Vorderkaiserfelden Hut is once again welcoming guests. It is an important part of the mountain experience in the Kufsteinerland—as a place to rest, a place to stay, and a starting point for tours in the Kaiser Mountains in every season," said Michael Weiß, managing director of the Tourismusverband Kufsteinerland.

Time-Tested Hut Tradition, New Hosts on the Zahmer Kaiser

The hut, which is more than 130 years old, was extensively renovated by the Oberland Section of the German Alpine Club. Approximately 5.3 million euros were invested in the renovation and modernization. In addition to new common and sleeping areas, a new self-catering lodge with a winter room was built. The total of 114 sleeping berths was retained. Building materials from the region, windows and doors from Tyrolean craft workshops,

reused historic elements such as stove tiles, furniture, and historic wooden planks, and a photovoltaic system connect the hut's history with contemporary requirements for resource-efficient operation.

Isabell Schwaninger and Bernd Graf are taking over management as the new tenant team. The two are committed to personal hospitality, regional products, and down-to-earth hut cuisine. There is great anticipation for this new chapter, as Isabell Schwaninger explains: "For us, this new venture offers the chance to combine our profession with our way of life. We're very much looking forward to giving the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte a personal touch—down-to-earth, authentic, and with a lot of heart."

Discover the Kaisertal Valley in Fall and Winter

The Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte is much more than just a popular hiking destination. Its location above the Kaisertal Valley makes it a starting point for mountain hikes in the Zahmer Kaiser range and an important overnight stop on multi-day routes such as the four-day Kaisertour. The hut can be reached via various trails: from Kufstein-Sparchen through the Kaisertal Valley or from Ebbs via the Musikantenrast or the Schanzer Steig.

Hiking tips for fall and winter around the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte

Tip 1: Kaisertal Valley Sunside Hike

The hike leads up the approximately 285 steps of the Kaiseraufstieg into the Kaisertal—voted Austria's most beautiful place in 2016—and continues via the Ritzau Alm to the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte and on to the panoramic Naunspitze. The return route passes the Antonius Chapel and the Pfandlhof—plenty of opportunities for a leisurely stop for refreshments.

Difficulty: moderate | Elevation gain and loss: 1,120 m | Highest point: 1,625 m | Hiking time: 7:00 h | Distance: 15 km

Link to the tour is here

Tip 2: Kaisertal Adventure Trail (multi-day hike)

This multi-day tour takes you through the protected Kaisertal valley in two or three stages, passing eleven interactive stations that offer insights into nature, history, and life in the valley. From the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte, the route continues along scenic mountain trails to the Hans-Berger-Haus, before the hike leads either via the more challenging Bettlersteig to the Brentenjoch or, for a more leisurely option, through the Kaisertal back to the starting point.

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Difficulty: moderate | Elevation gain: 1,900 m | Elevation loss: 1,100 m | Highest point: 1,465 m | Distance: 25 km

Link to the tour is here

Tip 3: Winter in the Kaisertal

Climbing the 285 steps of the Kaiseraufstieg, the premium winter hiking trail leads through the wind-sheltered, often sunny Kaisertal, past traditional inns and the Antonius Chapel to the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte, which is open year-round. Along the way, impressive views of the winter mountain landscape of the Kaiser Mountains unfold.

Difficulty: moderate | Elevation gain: 880 m | Elevation loss: 880 m | Highest point: 1,380 m | Walking time / total: 7:00 h | Distance: 18.6 km

Link to the tour is here

Tip 4: Kaisertour (multi-day hike from May to mid-October)

The four-day Kaisertour takes fit hikers from Ebbs via the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte and the Stripsenjochhaus to the Weinbergerhaus and on through the varied mountain landscape of the Zahmer Kaiser and Wilder Kaiser. Along the way, scenic high-altitude trails, striking peaks, and cozy overnight stays in huts alternate, while more challenging routes via the Pyramidenspitze and the Scheffauer offer additional mountain experiences for experienced hikers.

Difficulty: moderate | Elevation gain: 2,610 m | Highest point

2,050 m | Distance: 35.2 km

Link to the tour is here

Contact Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte: www.alpenverein-muenchen-oberland.de

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Image 1: The newly renovated dining room at the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte invites guests to linger with its rustic wooden tables, colorful chairs, and welcoming atmosphere. © Sektion Oberland/Matthäus Ernst
Image 2: Light-colored wood elements, colorful chairs, and modern pendant lights lend the newly renovated dining room at the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte a friendly and cozy atmosphere. © Sektion Oberland/Matthäus Ernst
Image 3: The newly renovated dormitory at the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte offers cozy accommodations in the heart of the Kaiser Mountains. © Sektion Oberland/Matthäus Ernst

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Image 4: Light-colored wooden stairs, large windows, and natural materials characterize the newly designed stairwell at the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte, combining modern architecture with alpine charm. © Sektion Oberland/Matthäus Ernst
Image 5: A day hike with the hut as the destination or as a base for further hikes to the Naunspitze, Petersköpfl, or on to the Stripsenkopf. © Kufsteinerland/Christoph Johann
Image 6: At the foot of the Naunspitze, the newly renovated Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte nestles on a small plateau with sweeping views of the Inn Valley. © Kufsteinerland/Christoph Johann
Image 7: Step into the cozy living room: The newly renovated Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte invites you to stop in. © Kufsteinerland/Christoph Johann
Image 8: A day hike with the hut as your destination or as a base for further hikes to the Naunspitze, Petersköpfl, or on to the Stripsenkopf. © Kufsteinerland/Christoph Johann
Image 9: The Kaiser Mountains and the Kaisertal Valley are wonderful to explore on foot in late fall, whether over one day or several. © Kufsteinerland/Christoph Johann

Hiking photos:
https://pixx2.kufstein.com/share/1793617415sTi17RrnLMGwzG

Photos of the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte:
https://pixx2.kufstein.com/share/17936175270CgACxStMobwAG

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