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Stopover in Kufsteinerland: A Mini-Vacation Within a Vacation

Kufsteinerland, Tyrol – **How much of Kufsteinerland can you fit into 48 or 72 hours? Enough to turn a stopover into a relaxing mini-vacation—with a traditional board snack on an alpine pasture, a stroll through the charming old town, an open-air concert at the Festungsarena, or classical music at the Festspielhaus and the Passionsspielhaus in Erl.**

We've all been there. The hours before heading off on vacation have a life of their own: suitcases that won't pack themselves. And where are those passports that were still lying on the kitchen table yesterday? By the time everyone's finally in the car, the urge for a change of scenery is already strong again. That's why it's great when your vacation doesn't have to wait until you reach your destination. The Kufsteinerland region, situated directly on the Inntal Autobahn, is a stroke of luck in this regard. For train travelers, too, the station—just a few steps from Kufstein's old town—is ideal for a stopover.

Flanked by the mighty Kaiser Mountains to the east and a charming lake landscape to the west, the region encompasses eight villages: Bad Häring, Ebbs, Erl, Langkampfen, Niederndorf, Niederndorferberg, Schwoich, and Thiersee—and, of course, Kufstein, with its fortress as a landmark visible from afar. The region welcomes travelers with a blend of alpine expanses, urban charm, and a surprisingly diverse range of experiences. It's perfect for a stopover on the way to your vacation destination or to add a few relaxing days to your return trip—essentially a mini-vacation within a vacation. Whether it's 48 or 72 hours—everything here is compact enough for a spontaneous break, yet large enough to give you that genuine vacation feeling.

Escape the Daily Grind with the Kaiserlift

It takes about half an hour to ride the nostalgic single-seat chairlift from the valley station in Kufstein up to the Brentenjoch mountain station at over 1,200 m above sea level. The Kaiserlift, completely renovated in 2015, now purrs along as it did in days gone by, gliding over alpine meadows and treetops toward the Wilder Kaiser. From the mountain station, you can reach the Brentenjochalm with its cozy little parlor and a lush flower garden surrounding the house. Here, the cows doze in the barn while you sit outside on simple wooden benches, enjoying a mug of coffee and Kiachl with lingonberries—and automatically switch into vacation mode. Other huts and alpine pastures are within reach via beautiful hikes lasting 1–1.5 hours.

Summer, Sun, and a Cool Break

On hot days, a detour to the Hechtsee beach with its clear water is highly recommended. You can also walk around the lake on a relaxing stroll under the shade of the trees. The forest swimming pool in Niederndorf is also a perfect place to cool off in summer temperatures.

Kufstein: Discover the Pearl of Tyrol

In Kufstein, history and the present, down-to-earth charm and cosmopolitanism come together in a very small space. In Römerhofgasse, with its painted bay windows and ornate tavern signs, time seems to stand still. This is also where you'll find the historic Auracher Löchl inn, famous for its hearty Tyrolean Kasspatzn and historic wooden parlors, where composer Karl Ganzer once performed his "Kufsteinlied." Its modern counterpart is the elegant, airy rooftop bar with a spectacular view over the green Inn River. A special hidden gem is tucked away in a tunnel beneath the inn: in the style of a speakeasy bar, it houses one of Europe's largest gin collections—around 1,400 different varieties are available for tasting.

Kufstein Fortress: a Trip Back to the Middle Ages

In just a few minutes, the Panoramabahn cable car whisks you up to Kufstein Fortress with its massive Kaiserturm. Within the fortress's sprawling grounds, history buffs can immerse themselves in the world of knights and mercenaries. The fortress grounds also serve as a venue for concerts. Every day at 12 p.m. (and additionally at 6 p.m. in July), you can listen to the sounds of the Heldenorgel at the foot of the fortress—with nearly 5,000 pipes, it is the second-largest open-air organ in the world and can be heard all the way to neighboring Bavaria.

Music at Its Best: Classical Meets Pop and Schlager

At the Festspielhaus in Erl, the production URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT, Gustav Mahler goes Circus, captivates audiences with a fascinating crossover of acrobatics and musical theater. And *The Flying Dutchman*, Richard Wagner's romantic opera in three acts, is also on the program for the Tyrolean Festival in the summer of 2026, which will conclude the 2025/26 season with the "Ausklang" festival from October 1–3. In addition, as part of the "La Guitarra Erl" guitar festival from August 13–15, Latin Grammy winner BUIKA, among others, will delight the audience.

Concert evenings in the historic fortress arena high above Kufstein have a magic all their own. MuscialSommer, In Extremo, Christina Stürmer, the XL Schlager Show featuring Beatrice Egli, Matthias Reim, and Nik P., and many other gigs will breathe life into the ancient walls this summer. Should the weather not cooperate, concertgoers will stay dry thanks to the retractable roof.

For more information and the latest event dates, visit www.kufstein.com

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Image 01: A walk through the old town with a view of Kufstein Fortress. © Kufsteindrland / Thorben Jureczko

Image 02: A stroll through the picturesque Römerhofgasse in Kufstein's Old Town. © Kufsteinerland / Thorben Jureczko

Image 03: A ride on the Kaiserlift with an impressive panoramic view of the Inn Valley. © Kufsteinerland / Mathäus Gartner

Image 04: A bird's-eye view of Lake Hechtsee near Kufstein on a summer day. © Kufsteinerland

Image 05: A moment of indulgence at the Auracher Löchl: a creatively served cocktail in a stylish setting. © Kufsteinerland / Auracher Löchl

Image 06: Medieval entertainment and fascinating street performances at the Ritterfest Kufstein. © Kufsteinerland / Florian Egger

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