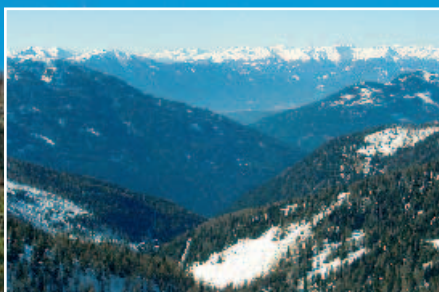
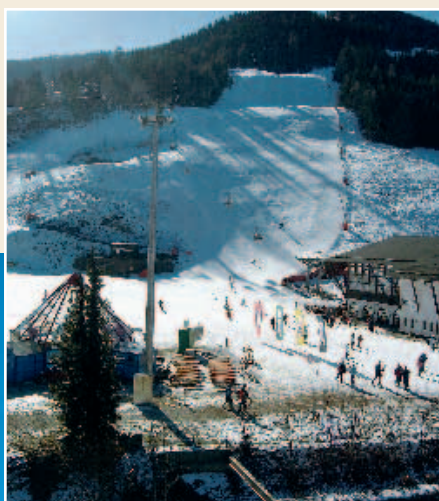


Carinthia Region – South Austria

One of the most beautiful winter tourism destinations

> Motaz Othman – Carinthia Region



Carinthia region of south Austria is one of the most beautiful winter resorts in the world. It is very close to Italy's northern border and to Slovenia. Carinthia is the name of the region and Klagenfurt is the capital. However, Villach is the important city, which can be reached easily from Vienna, a four-hour train ride, or from Salzburg, a two-hour train ride.

I arrived at the beginning of February after an invitation from the representatives of the tourism board who I met during ACTB exhibition in Vienna. It was a most enjoyable visit event though I only stayed for 24 hours. A representative from Carinthia tourism was waiting for me at the train station. I checked into the Thermen Hotel and Spa, and after a light meal, we took a tour of the hotel and its spa. The mineral water comes out warm up to 30 degrees and the indoor swimming pool provides perfect relaxation. In addition this water can treat many ailments and

diseases. We also toured the shopping streets in the city where prices are reasonable and visited the village of Velden, 20 km far from Villach. It has a wonderful lake. In fact there are more than 200 lakes in Carinthia. We returned to Thermen resort to have dinner with Ms. Ulla from the hotel management and Ms. Isabella from the tourism board.

Next day was very special. We took a taxi to a ski resort and its spas, in the village of Bad Kleinkirchheim which hosted the World's Ski Championship at the end of last year. ▶



We toured the hotels, starting with two first class hotels: The five-star luxury Ronacher, owned and managed by the Ronacher family, and the Polverer five- star hotel which is famous for its first class restaurants. The village has many other types of hotels and you can even hire a house on a farm in the village, or stay in a bed and breakfast for as little as 25 Euro. I took the cable car to the mountain, where we enjoyed a cup of coffee and the very nice view, and watched the skiers. At the end of the valley you find the well managed and advanced thermal spa which has three floors and more than 10 pools each with different temperatures. Beauty centers offer all kinds of massage, including Japanese and Ayurveda.

This resort is unique because of its many ski schools which provide lessons for two days or a week. It is also one of Europe’s most famous spas and the proximity to the Italian and Solvenian borders ensures excellent Italian food.

The magnificent views, the hospitality provided by the Carinthian people, the fresh air coming from the lakes, woodland which covers 75 percent of the area, golf courses and fine food, all make the Carinthia region of south Austria one of the best winter tourism destinations. It is also ideal for summer vacations. ■

