**Above the peaks: Hot-air ballooning at Lake Achensee**

**Flying high in the air lets visitors discover completely new perspectives of the breathtaking landscapes between the lake and the mountains**

The experience of a lifetime awaits as you take life higher with a hot-air balloon ride, whether it’s with friends, to celebrate your engagement or just to slow down. Floating over snow-covered winter landscapes or green alpine pastures – at Lake Achensee, Tirol's Sports and Vitality Park, the colourful hot-air balloons take off year-round and give visitors the opportunity to see the turquoise-green shimmering Tirolean Sea and the Karwendel and Rofan mountains from a new perspective. In March, the “Achensee Ballooning Days” return to the region, running over a full week with passenger rides taking to the skies several times per day. www.achensee.com

**On cloud nine: Airborne adventures year-round**

A hot-air balloon ride is wonderful to switch off: Being close to nature in absolute stillness is an unforgettable experience. But before the balloon rises and gets carried away by the wind, the pilots monitor the weather closely: wind direction, cloud cover, precipitation – everything has to be right. On the day of the flight, the pilots check the forecast once again, they leave nothing to chance. At Lake Achensee, the balloons take off from Achenkirch in north or north-west winds between five and nine in the morning, depending on the time of year. Wafts of mist hang over the ground, and the excitement before the launch is palpable. The passengers have to help laying out the envelope on the ground. At 30 metres high and with a diameter of 25 metres at its widest point, the envelope is huge, holding 7,800 cubic metres of air. Before take-off the envelope will be partially filled with cold air before the air is heated with the burner. The warm air rises inside the envelope and suddenly the balloon takes off and climbs higher and higher – up to altitudes of 3,000 metres.

Fantastic views over Lake Achensee and the Rofan and Karwendel mountains are guaranteed –picturesque sunrises included. By the way, there is no wind in the basket, and usually it’s colder on the ground. Even in winter it’s not too cold, warm clothing in several layers and good footwear are nevertheless recommended. While the passengers enjoy the panorama, the pilot checks the wind direction again. The pilots cannot steer the hot-air balloon, the direction it goes in is determined by the wind. But don't worry: All balloon pilots in the alpine flying areas have a lot of experience and know-how. If necessary, they can bring the colourful balloons down faster and aim for the ideal landing site. The flight lasts for around one hour, maybe longer depending on the suitability of landing sites. Back on the ground, everyone will be invited to help. The experience is rounded off with the traditional certificate presentation and reception before the chase vehicle takes the passengers back to the starting point. Tickets for the "alpine hot-air balloon ride" are available year-round from EUR 280 per person.

[www.alpineballooning.at](https://www.alpineballooning.at/)

**Lake Achensee - Tirol's Sports & Vitality Park**

Arrive, switch off, immerse yourself: The region surrounding Tirol’s largest lake attracts visitors with plenty of active recreation and leisure pursuits. Nestled between the Karwendel and Rofan mountains, Lake Achensee is a place to connect with nature, making it a popular destination for mountain enthusiasts and water lovers alike. The lakeshore, which can be approached from any point, and the impressive paths in the valleys of the Nature Park Karwendel offer amazing outdoor experiences in summer and in winter. Mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing – Lake Achensee inspires and is filled with magical moments! Achensee Tourism is the contact point for visitors and media representatives seeking information about tourist activities in Tirol's Sports & Vitality Park. Members of the media can download **printable photos** from the image database [www.achensee.org](http://www.achensee.org). To view the entire selection of photos and gain permission for downloading, please sign up and confirm your registration by clicking the link in the verification email. For an overview of the current Covid-19 related safety regulations and recommendations in Tirol visit [www.achensee.com/en/achensee-holidays/current-information-on-coronavirus/](https://www.achensee.com/en/achensee-holidays/current-information-on-coronavirus/)