



Emergency app Tirolean  
Mountain Rescue Service

# Winter hiking



alpenverein  
österreich



österreichisches kuratorium für  
alpine sicherheit

## Planning a hike

- Plan the hike in advance. Is the route appropriate to my skills?
- Be sure to take into account the low temperatures and the shortness of the days when planning a winter hike.
- Familiarise yourself with the subjects of navigation and danger of avalanches beforehand

## Equipment

- Sturdy pair of shoes with grip sole
- Clothing suitable for the temperatures in winter (warm, breathable etc.)
- Food and drinks
- First-aid kit
- Mobile phone with fully charged battery
- Hiking map and guide
- Sun protection (sun cream and glasses, hat)
- Telescopic sticks
- Snow spikes for shoes

## Tips and information

- Keep well away from wildlife feeding areas and habitats (avoid prohibited areas)
- Do not leave secured winter hiking trails (Alpine winter dangers)
- Thermos flask with hot tea and food

## Trail difficulty rating

- A winter hiking trail is defined as 'a trail in the snow which is sign-posted, maintained, checked and secured from Alpine dangers'.

## First aid

- First-aid kit
- Mobile phone with fully charged battery and charger

## Emergency numbers

- ☎ 140: Mountain rescue service – Alpine emergency

- ☎ 112: European emergency number (works with any mobile phone & all available networks)

## No coverage?

If there is no reception and in dead spots, no emergency calls can be made. → Go to an area with better reception and dial 112 regularly. Euro emergency: Access to all available networks if 112 is dialled after switching on the phone instead of entering the PIN or by using the SOS emergency function.

## Reporting an accident

- Who is reporting / call-back number?
- What is the exact location of the accident?
- What has happened?
- How many people are injured?

## Emergency app Tirolean Mountain Rescue Service

Smart phone users can install the new emergency app provided by the Tirolean Mountain Rescue Service. It helps making an emergency call and transmits one's location.



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## *General recommendations from the Alpine associations:*

### **1. Getting fit in the mountains**

Hiking is an endurance sport. It makes the heart and circulation work, which requires you to be healthy and to realistically assess your fitness. Try not to rush and walk at a tempo where nobody in the group gets out of breath.

### **2. Careful planning**

Hiking maps, guide books, the internet and experts can inform you about the length, height difference, difficulty and current conditions of a hike. You should always choose which hiking trails you will take according to the skills of the group. Pay particular attention to the weather forecast because wind, rain and cold increase the risk of an accident.

### **3. Complete equipment**

Make sure you have the right equipment for the hike you are taking and that your rucksack is not too heavy. Protection from the rain, cold and sun should always be packed in your rucksack, as should a first-aid kit and a mobile phone (European emergency number 112). Maps and GPS will help you find your way.

### **4. Appropriate footwear**

Good hiking boots protect and provide relief to your feet and improve your footing. When choosing a pair of shoes, make sure that they fit perfectly, have non-slip soles, are waterproof, and that they are light.

### **5. Sure footing is key**

Falls as a result of slipping or tripping are the most common cause of accidents. Make sure that you do not lose your footing or concentration because you are going too fast or are tired. Also watch out for falling rocks: by walking carefully you avoid loosening rocks.

### **6. Stay on marked paths**

In areas without any signs there is an increased risk that hikers will lose their way, will fall or that rocks will fall. Avoid short cuts and go back to the last point you recognise if you stray from the path. Steep old snow fields are often underestimated and very dangerous as one can easily slip.

### **7. Regular breaks**

Regular rest helps hikers to recover, enjoy the landscape, and makes the hike more sociable. You need to eat and drink to sustain your concentration and energy levels. Energy drinks are ideal for quenching your thirst. Cereal bars, dried fruit and biscuits will satisfy your hunger while walking.

### **8. Responsibility for children**

Discovering the landscape in a fun and varied way is very important for children. In passages where there is a risk of falling, an adult can only look after one child. Very difficult hikes, which require long periods of concentration, are not suitable for children.

### **9. Small groups**

Small groups are more flexible and allow members to help each other. Tell everyone in your group your end destination, route, and return route. Stay together in your group. Attention to those hiking alone: even minor incidents can require serious emergency assistance.

### **10. Respect for nature and the environment**

To protect the natural mountain areas, do not leave rubbish behind, stay on the paths, do not disturb wild animals or livestock, do not touch the plants, and respect protected areas. Take public transport or use carpooling to get to your destination.

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