

Press Information



When mountains burn

Mountain bonfires mark the summer solstice in Gasteinertal

When the longest day meets the shortest night, summer in the Alpine world is greeted in a spectacular way. For it is then that we see our mountains lit up by flames – including right here in Gastein, in the south of Salzburger Land. While down in the valley, this special day is celebrated with music and dancing.

Alpine regions are famous for their ancient traditions and folk customs. And so it is that in Gastein Valley, just as in other places, we mark the annual summer solstice by lighting bonfires on the mountains – this year, on Saturday June 18th. Locals hike up into the mountains in order to ignite the bonfires, celebrating the longest day and shortest night of the year. Shortly after nightfall, these chains of light stretch out across the mountaintops, creating fascinating fiery symbols. Guests can enjoy a particularly splendid view of the event on the Stubnerkogel in Bad Gastein. On this special evening, the lift runs continuously between 6 and 11 p.m. Alpenhorn players and a local folk band add even more color to the spectacle. Other highlights on the Stubnerkogel include: fire jugglers, a big fire show, as well as a mountain fireworks display. The Fulseckbahn lift in Dorfgastein also runs from 8 until 10:30 at night.

Colorful Weekend Program

Bad Hofgastein features a wide variety of events over the solstice weekend. An exciting evening is promised by the Live Multimedia Storytelling Performance on Friday, 17 June beginning at 9:30 p.m. at the Alpenarena in the town center. While Italian Cosimo Miorelle guides guests through the world of the summer solstice with a kind of digital live-painting, Fabrizio Nocci accompanies the show with music he composed especially for the occasion.

At a concert in the Alpenarena on Saturday, the “Cuba Boarischen” will unite Caribbean rhythms with local polkas. Ideally, they will also infect their audience with that carefree Cuban lifestyle. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

On Sunday starting at 11 a.m., the Alpenarena will belong to Gastein music group “Strochner Böhmische”. Music and dance will bring this year’s solstice weekend to a befittingly delightful conclusion.

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