



Mayrhofen Press Release
Winter 2016/2017

100 PERCENT COURAGE FOR 78 PERCENT GRADIENT

AUSTRIA'S STEEPEST SLOPE ADVENTURE

The Harakiri – even experienced skiers have mixed feelings about the long-since legendary run on the Action Mountain Penken in Mayrhofen: over a 400-metre stretch, their reactions span from a huge sense of respect to pure euphoria. This is the length of the steepest section of the two-kilometre black piste in the Horbergtal Valley. An impressive 78 percent gradient makes the Harakiri the steepest slope adventure in Austria.

The piste on the Action Mountain Penken is more than ten years old and still a legend. Year after year, it entices in holiday-makers and locals who want to set themselves the 'Harakiri' challenge.

STEEPER THAN A SKI JUMP HILL

Those who dare can get to piste 34 (as the run is officially known) on the Knorren six-seater chair lift. This runs directly beside the Harakiri and from the top offers an impressive view of what awaits anyone who chooses to descend. On starting the run, the terrain is relatively gentle. But it is only a few hundred metres before the flat introductory section turns into the legendary 78 percent gradient and is steeper than a ski jump hill. The time has come for courage and true grit – there is no turning back now.

ONLY FOR EXPERTS!

It is for precisely this reason that only those who are physically fit and can expertly control their skis or snowboard should attempt the Harakiri. A stable body position, advanced skiing skills and decisive edge grip are essential for a successful descent – as is the optimum equipment. This includes well-sharpened edges and, of course, a helmet. Snow blades and short skis on the other hand, should not be used on the Harakiri. If you are not sure whether you are ready for the Harakiri, you should first try the slightly less extreme piste no. 12, the Devil's Run. Locals regard the precipice at the end of the run as the 'Harakiri test'. If you can get down it safely, you are ready for Austria's steepest slope adventure.

CAREFUL PREPARATION IN LAYERS

Nerves like steel are certainly helpful for this adventure. And steel is also essential for the Harakiri in another regard: the preparation of the piste. Due to its extremely steep location and average gradient of 38 degrees, it can only be prepared using a cable winch and a special nine-tonne snow groomer with 430 HP and four tonnes of traction. To prevent the snow from breaking away, the piste first has to be built up using a lengthy layering procedure and then covered in snow and prepared daily.



I SURVIVED HARAKIRI

The successful mastering of the Harakiri is for many people the highlight of their skiing holiday. Of course, this brief sense of complete happiness is something they want to hang onto forever. Every Friday, a professional photo shoot therefore takes place on the piste from 13.00 to 15.00. The commemorative photos can then be downloaded free of charge from the Mayrhofner Bergbahnen online shop. Together with all Mayrhofner Bergbahnen cash desks, this also sells the must-have 'I survived Harakiri' t-shirt for everyone who has passed the test of courage – in black of course.

(519 words)



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Info box: Mayrhofner Bergbahnen

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Skiing area facts	Mayrhofen	136 kilometres of piste 57 lifts
	Zillertal	508 kilometres of piste in total 179 lifts
Start of season	26.11.2016 (Horbergbahn) 26.11.2016 (Penkenbahn) 17.12.2016 (Ahornbahn)	
End of season	23.04.2017 (Horbergbahn) 23.04.2017 (Penkenbahn) 17.04.2017 (Ahornbahn)	
Ski areas	Ahorn	670 m - 2,000 m
	Penken	1,800 m - 2,500 m
Harakiri	<p>Location: on the Knorren on the Action Mountain Penken Austria's steepest slope adventure Opened in winter season 2003/2004 78% average gradient (38 degrees) Piste number 34 (black) Total length of the Harakiri run: 2 km The actual precipice is over 400 m long</p>	
How to get here		
By car	Approx. 1.5 to 2.0 hours from Munich (149 km)	
By train	Take a high-speed train to the Jenbach railway station then the Zillertalbahn for the last 35 kilometres to Mayrhofen	
By plane	The nearest airports are in Innsbruck (65 km), Salzburg (170 km) and Munich (190 km)	

For further details and RSS newsfeed as well as text and
visual material for download, see www.press-service.info/mayrhofen