

A look behind the scenes



**Winter season
in Grächen**

**Exciting
insights**

A look behind the scenes – Discover our ski resort from a new perspective

Dear guest,

Welcome to the virtual open day at our ski resort. We are delighted to offer you an exclusive glimpse behind the scenes. Discover exciting and interesting facts about us, our offers and our services first-hand.

To offer you a first-class winter sports experience, we are constantly working to improve and modernise our ski resort. We continuously invest in the safety, comfort and quality of our facilities so that you can enjoy a carefree time with us. True to our slogan: Small. But mighty.

We hope you gather lots of interesting information and have an eventful and relaxing time with us. Please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions.

We wish you an unforgettable holiday.
It's great to have you here!

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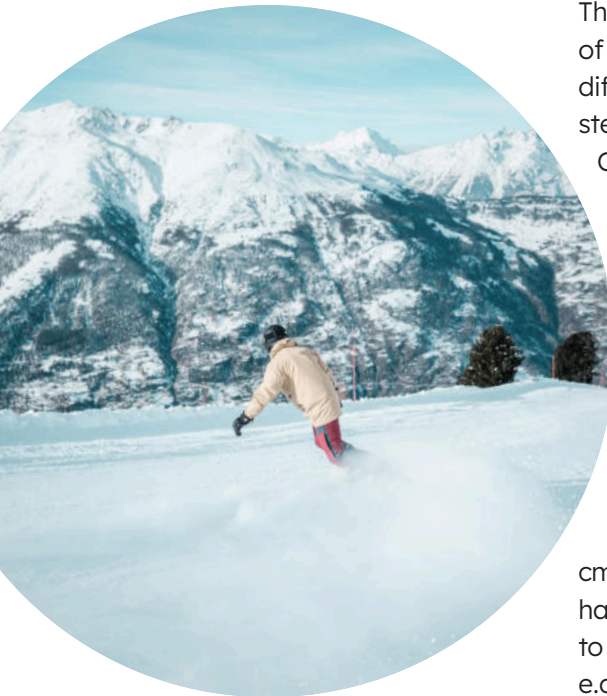
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Slopes – For your perfect ski adventure up & down

How do you orientate yourself in our ski area? Find out how the different slopes are graded and categorised.



Cable car and lift information



44 kilometres of slopes await you in the Grächen ski area. You can whizz down into the valley on 1 km of blue, 42 km of red and 1 km of yellow slopes! Whether you're a beginner or a pro – There's something for everyone here! The coloured markings on both sides of the slopes indicate the degree of difficulty and are based on the average steepness of the entire slope. The Swiss Cable Car Association provides clear instructions for marking slopes. BLUE = easy: up to 15° gradient. RED = medium: up to 25° gradient. BLACK = difficult: all slopes exceeding a 25° gradient. YELLOW = variant is not groomed and not checked. BLACK-YELLOW = danger or obstacle. Our slopes are marked with 30 cm high fluorescent colours on the left-hand side and 80 cm high fluorescent colours on the right-hand side. Information boards are used to draw attention to additional hazards, e.g. "crossing". Compliance with the laws and regulations is strictly monitored and certified accordingly.

Rescue service – rapid assistance in the ski area

Five professional rescue workers give their best every day and are out on the slopes in all weather conditions. The rescue team checks the slopes early in the morning to ensure daily safety. They are quickly on the scene in the event of accidents and provide first aid.

To be part of our rescue team, you need to be a very good skier and have completed various courses. In addition to learning and deepening first aid skills, the training also includes crevasse rescue, avalanche awareness and avalanche blasting. Thorough training can save lives. The rescue workers secure the accident site, administer first aid and transport the injured on a rescue sledge or, in serious cases, call in a helicopter.



Hannigalp cable car – Your gondola directly to the ski area

Five ski lifts, three chairlifts and a gondola lift provide excellent access to the slopes. The Hannigalp cable car is in operation in winter and summer.



Hannigalp cable car valley station
1621 metres above sea level

Manufactured in Switzerland, our systems guarantee the highest safety standards.

Our oldest lift was built in 1966. The newest facility (Furggen I) began operating in 2020. The Seetalhorn chairlift covers the longest distance at 2,347 metres. Of all the facilities, the Hannigalpbahn is in operation for the longest time, with around 2,550 operating hours per year. The energy requirement is 550,000 kWh. That's enough to toast 73,150,000 slices of bread or iron 8,250,000 shirts.

At full capacity, 1,800 people per hour can be transported to Hannigalp. At night, the gondolas are parked in the mountain station on four tracks. Any maintenance work is carried out in our small workshop.

Facts

Hannigalp cable car

Mountain station: 2120 metres above sea level

Year of construction: 2011

Brand: Garaventa

Number of gondolas: 55, including 10 fairy tale gondolas

Max. 8 persons per gondola

Max. speed: 6 metres per second

Hannigalp cable car – History and present day

A historic milestone: the first cable car floated up to Hannigalp in 1958! An exciting story about the evolution from chairlifts to gondolas and the rise of Grächen as a winter paradise!

The chairlift, which was innovative at the time and built by Gaviola from Monthey, marked the beginning of an exciting era for Grächen.

Initially viewed with scepticism, the modern gondola lift soon became established and revolutionised access to Hannigalp. By 1965, just seven years after it began operating, capacity had doubled to 220 people per hour, and by 1975, as many as 380 winter sports enthusiasts per hour were able to reach Hannigalp.

Another milestone was the introduction of the first day ticket in the 1965/66 season – at that time still for CHF 20.00, which adjusted for inflation corresponds to around CHF 88.00 today.

This marked the beginning of Grächen's exciting development into a popular winter holiday destination that now attracts thousands of visitors every year!

Book recommendation:
Grächen - Im Strom der Zeit

Available at the Tourist Office.



Snowmaking system – the indispensable snow supplier

In addition to the most important component "water", a snowmaking system also requires pumps, compressors, air and power supply lines.



In the 1987/88 season, the slopes in Grächen were covered with artificial snow for the first time.

When there is insufficient precipitation, propeller cannons and snow lances help us to produce snow. The slanted aluminium pipe characteristic of snow lances is equipped with water and air nozzles at the tip. The sprayed water is under very high pressure, the air expands and cools down. The resulting snow crystals slowly sink onto the slope.

Snow lances have low energy consumption, are low-maintenance, low-wear and low-noise, but are more susceptible to wind.

The efficiency of a snowmaking system decreases as the temperature rises.

Facts

Water consumption/year

- 390'000 l/h for 100 % of the area
- 1'000'000 bathtubs
- 330'000 – 350'000 m³ snow

Energy consumption/year

- 750'000 kWh
- Cannon: 40 amps/lance 5 amps

31 Snow cannons and 81 Snow lances

The key to perfect snow: how snow crystal shape, temperature and liquid water content determine this winter wonder!

When humidity is low, snowmaking only works through evaporative cooling, even at temperatures just above 0°C. The drier the ambient air, the better the cooling process. From an economic point of view, a relative wet bulb temperature of –4.5 to –10°C is ideal for snowmaking. Slope preparation begins around two months before the start of the season. Natural and technically produced snow together ensure optimal conditions! The latter is more heat-resistant, has a higher density and melts more slowly than natural snow.

Depending on the temperature, around 6 kWh of energy and 1 m³ of water are required to produce 2.5 m³ of snow.

The construction of a new technical snowmaking system costs around CHF 1.2 million per kilometre.



Snowmaking system next to the Schnööbar

Book the Let It Snow Tour!



Snow groomer – For the best skiing experience on the slopes

Discover how our snow groomers are shaping local skiing history – now with seven modern machines in operation!

We put the first snow groomer into service in 1967.



Experience slope preparation up close and book your snow groomer tour.



Today, our fleet comprises two winches, four solo vehicles and one small-snow groomer. After the slopes close, the powerful snow groomers use their blades to push the snow that skiers have transported downhill during the day back up the slope evenly, preparing the white carpet for the next day. The caterpillar itself has a certain compacting effect. However, the tiller is particularly important. It digs up to 10 cm deep into the snow, turning ice clumps and even icy surfaces back into fine powder. Finally, plates press everything down again to create a beautiful, grippy, resistant slope. Speed, tilling depth and contact pressure must be perfectly coordinated. The team works for you for about nine hours per night.

Facts

One snow groomer

CHF 200'000 costs per season
CHF 500'000 acquisition costs
1000 working hours/season
Weight: between 5 - 12 tonnes
Major overhauls are due after 3000, 6000 and 9000 hours

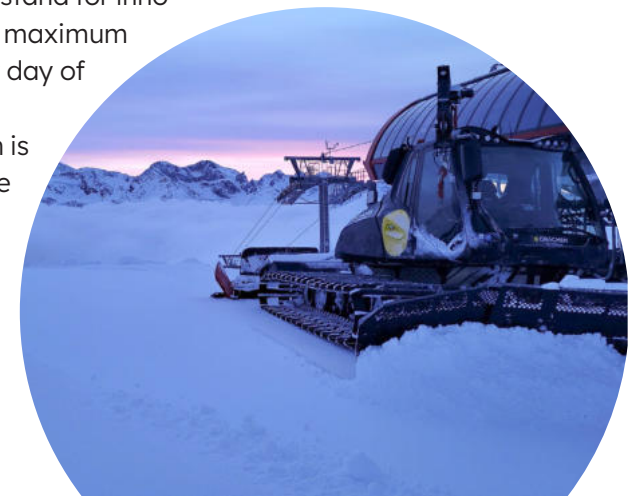
Powerful motors on tour

Innovative technology meets professional expertise: this is how our employees ensure perfectly groomed slopes!

The ideal time for grooming is just before freezing. If grooming is done too early, water will reach the surface and the slope will become icy. If the snow is only groomed once it has already frozen through, the grains will be too coarse. The snow will not be able to sinter properly. We start preparing the slopes at nightfall so that the snow cover can rest for around eight hours – ensuring optimum quality in our 55-hectare ski area, which is equivalent to around 77 football pitches! We trust in 'Made in Switzerland': our Prinoth snow groomers stand for innovative technology and maximum precision – so that your day of skiing is perfect! When the winter season is over, the caterpillars are dismantled and all snow groomers undergo an intensive service.



View of the Brunegg-, Bis- and Weiss-horn during slope preparation



Mountain gastronomy – Restaurants and bars on the Hannigalp

Successful mountain catering is no walk in the park: long delivery routes, small kitchens and seasonal workers who first have to familiarise themselves with the business.

All catering supplies are transported to the mountain station by the Hannigalpbahn cable car, then to the



restaurants and bars by snow groomer or ski taxi. One person is solely responsible for receiving, storing and delivering all the goods – truly impressive! There's an international vibe at Hannigalp! Employees from Switzerland, Germany, Czechia, Poland, Hungary, Argentina, Italy, Portugal and Greece often work six days a week to ensure that everything runs smoothly. What do we offer? Classics such as fondue, cheese toasties and Valais platters – but we also try out new trends. Does spaghetti actually cook faster at high altitudes? No. While the boiling point of water at sea level is 100°C, it boils at around 93°C on the Hannigalp. However, the water does not get hotter, it just evaporates. This means that spaghetti takes longer to cook. Rule of thumb: for every 300 metres of altitude, the boiling point drops by 1°C.

Facts

Consumption 2024|25

Annual consumption
Fondue cheese: 605 kg
Raclette cheese: 819 kg
French fries: 8'200 kg
Beer bottles: 15'984

Party and chill out, eat and enjoy, celebrate and meet

In addition to seasonal offers for dining, drinking and enjoyment, we also host meetings and family celebrations here.

If you are planning a conference, company party, a free wedding ceremony with festivities or a birthday party, then take a look at our stunning Matterhorn Hall, made from natural wood.

Depending on the seating arrangement, we can serve up to 110 guests here.

For aperitifs, you can gather on the inviting, spacious sun terrace with breathtaking views and get your time together off to the best possible start. The terrace can accommodate up to 140 people and is the perfect place to celebrate in the open air.

Exclusive hire of the Hannighüsli or the Stafelbar is also possible, with excellent service included.

Tips

Work Time at Hannigalp – the perfect location for your corporate event. Whether conferences, workshops, team events, ...

Wedding Time – your dream wedding amidst unique mountain scenery



Human Resources – Service and support

The TUG is Grächen's largest employer – and this becomes apparent every winter at the latest.

We rely on 38 permanent employees, plus around 100 motivated seasonal workers, who work together to deliver

top performance during the winter season. At the same time, our team works a total of 127,891 hours per year – and around 74,000 hours in the winter season alone – to ensure that our guests enjoy a better holiday.

At TUG, you can expect a wide variety of diverse jobs: from administration and technical roles at the mountain railway, snowmaking and slope preparation to catering. And best of all, you'll be working in the spectacular mountain world of Grächen – with new challenges every day, a great team spirit and real opportunities for personal development.

Would you like to become part of our dynamic team and move your workplace to a dreamlike mountain world? We are always looking for motivated people. Get in touch – we look forward to hearing from you.

Tip

**Not just any job.
Your job in a holiday
paradise!**



Strategy, planning and implementation

Time is a precious commodity in our lives. Grächen is the perfect destination – compact and convenient, warm and welcoming, and full of variety.

We want to offer our guests the best holiday experience and help them return to their everyday lives feeling refreshed. With high-quality products, unforgettable experiences and carefully planned events, we lay the foundation for relaxation and better holidays – with attention to detail and passion.

The focus is on maximising convenience: everything is geared towards making the holiday experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

All our activities stem from our DNA. It describes 'our ten commandments': relaxation for young and old, sun, nature, guaranteed snow, atmosphere, friendliness and cosiness, convenience, clarity, activities hub Valais/central location. With us, you can make the most of your time.



Tourist Office - Information and tickets

**Which ticket is best for you?
What culinary highlights await
you in the restaurants and
where can you find the best
après-ski? How can you revive
your tired muscles and what's
new?**

What questions do you have in mind before you embark on your adventure? At the Tourist Office, our staff are on hand to answer all your questions – in several languages! We'll help you find the right ticket for your perfect day! Exciting events and offers are waiting to be discovered! In addition to a wide range of ticket bookings, we can also help you find the perfect accommodation.

Whether you're looking for adventure or relaxation, the Tourist Office is your one-stop shop for information on Hannigalp cable car/lift operating hours, disruptions, weather and more. This is also where the turnstile access points to the ski area, tickets and cash registers are programmed so that you can get started quickly and easily!



Find the perfect gift for your loved ones – or treat yourself! Welcome to the Grächen Shop.



Opening hours & more



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Gifts-Time

Mehr Infos



**Make the most of
your time with us.**

Small. But mighty. graechen.ch

Winter Experiences 2025/26

Tuesday

Snow groomer tour

Wednesday

**Snowshoe tour to the Wannihorn
Fondue in the gondola**

Thursday

Let It Snow Tour



more events

