

Blog number 1
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The trip over to Hintertux, Austria with the Kootenay Zone Team was really long. We started off by taking a 4 hour plane ride from Calgary to Toronto, and then another 8 hour long plane ride to Munich, Germany. We then rented two vans and drove for two hours from Munich to a small town called Finkenberg. The small hotel we stayed at was run by a family who didn't speak any english. The town was located in a deep valley and surrounded by farms.



The first morning was the hardest, as we all woke up fairly early because of jet lag. Every morning at seven o'clock, we would walk downstairs to a breakfast already made and set out by the family. After getting all our gear together we got into the vans and headed to Hintertux.

During the drive over to the glacier, we noticed that some of the farms had chairlifts going through them or runs going down through the fields. We later learned that skiers needed a special pass or something to ski those runs. After about 10 minutes of driving, we arrived at Hintertux.

After 3 fairly long gondola rides, we arrived at the top of the glacier with an elevation of about 3,200 meters. There were four T-bars when we got to the top. We all had been up to date about how icy it was in Hintertux, but when we started skiing down for the first run the ice was insane. It was like skiing on an ice rink.



After a day of getting used to the ice we set a course. We tried setting on two different parts of the glacier, but had to stick to one of the "softer parts" because our drill couldn't go through the ice. Everyday we brought our tuning equipment onto the glacier, because we had to sharpen two, and sometimes three times a day.

After a couple days of slalom we skied some GS. The courses in GS were all set very close to each other because of minimal space. Sometimes when I wasn't paying full attention I would accidentally ski into another course, and not realize until a couple gates later.

On the fourth day the T-bar broke down. Instead of going back to the hotel we hiked up the run and set a course. We managed to get 6 runs in the course by hiking. After hiking up so many times it began to get hard to breath because of the elevation. We slept very well that night.



After skiing for the day, we would spend the rest of the day tuning, exploring, and dryland. Every night we ate at a restaurant in a hotel where all the other Canadian teams were staying. The other teams from Canada were from Ontario, Quebec,

BC Team, and the Canadian development team.

Some things we learned in Austria:

- Don't be noisy in rooms. An angry German lady will start yelling very loud German at you*.
- Don't fall on the ice on the glacier. You wont stop.
- Watch out for falling skiers when on the T-bar. They will hit you.
- Don't leave your window to your hotel room open before you go skiing. Farmers spray feces everywhere and the smell gets trapped when the German lady closes the window.
- Don't be nice in the lift lines.
- The appetizers are not mains. Don't fill yourself up on them
- Hiking at 3200 meters is very tiring and it's hard to breath.
- Don't buy a bunch of Milka bars in Austria, they do sell them in Canada too.
- Austria is one of the coolest places to go.

*the angry German lady owns the hotel