



## DREAMS ON THE ICE OF DAVOS KLOSTERS

**Ice sports in Davos Klosters boasts a long tradition. During about 150 years it has invented itself over and over again. Instead of the natural ice rink, the discovery park «Ice Dream Davos» was opened. The home stadium of the Davos Hockey Club (HCD) is about to undergo a thorough renovation.**

The 1,800 m<sup>2</sup> natural ice rink increasingly suffered from global warming and operating days shrank from an average of 100 days in the 20th century to a record minus of 50 – 60 days after the turn of the millennium. For this reason, the «Ice Dream Davos» experience park was opened in December 2016 instead of the natural ice rink.

### **Offering remains spectacular**

True to tradition, the new offerings on the ice remain spectacular. With 4,500 m<sup>2</sup> of ice surface, the «Ice Dream Davos» is Switzerland's largest portable artificial ice rink. The 120 m long Crash Ice Channel is also unique. This downhill track offers a special challenge: it is the world's first of its kind to be offered in public. In other cases, downhill tracks are only available as competition facilities. An ice disco, a children's area and an ice rink for curling and ice hockey are the other attractions connected by a 570 m long and 3.5 m wide gateway. The thematic fields are arranged in ways that make it easy for spectators to follow the action on the ice from the stands of the sports centre. In the rustic wooden chalet «Capricorn» or in the sports centre restaurant «Time Out», visitors can warm up and get ready for the next round on the ice. The facility is open from December to March.

### **HCD – much beloved and passionately hated**

HC Davos leaves no one aloof when it comes to Swiss ice hockey. The first team playing in blue-yellow colours probably has the highest number of fans in Switzerland and they love their HCD. The supporters of the other top teams just as passionately hate the record champion. Since its foundation in 1921, the Grisons have won 30 Swiss Champion titles. The ice hockey enthusiasm climaxes between Christmas and New Year when the legendary Spengler Cup takes place. The biggest club tournament in Europe is held since 1923. It offers the highest level of ice hockey by international top teams. The Spengler Cup enjoys an international reputation and Team Canada's matches are broadcast live in the home country of ice hockey.

### **The «Ice Palace» is to be renewed**

Spectacular are not only the matches on the ice, but also the ice stadium itself, which is called «Ice Palace» or «Ice Cathedral» because of its unusual wooden roof construction. The «Vaillant Arena» will be renovated and renewed for a total of CHF 25.55 million. The reconstruction will take place in stages starting from autumn 2018 and the Davos ice stadium will appear in new splendour in 2021, the 100th anniversary of the HCD.

### **A wish fulfilled**

A training ice rink is being built on the currently open artificial ice rink in Davos. A timber construction with façades made of translucent plastic is planned. The hall will be 68 m long, 48 m wide, 10 m high and equipped with a flat roof. The hall, designed by the architect's office Fanzun in Chur, will be kept simple and energy-efficient. The hall is not only used

by the HCD for ice hockey training sessions of the 1st team and the large junior department, but also for figure skating training of the International Ice Skating Club (ISCD) and the Curling Club Davos as well as for public skating. HCD will finance the investment of around six million euros. With the planned opening of the training ice rink in September 2018, the HCD is fulfilling a long-desired wish.

### **Figure skating stars in Davos**

Two skates do not only mean the world to hockey players. Because there is ice in Davos all year round, many figure skaters travel to the highest city in Europe for summer camps. Every February, some of the world's best skaters enchant audiences in the Vaillant Arena as they perform elegant pirouettes and double Axels at the Art on Ice event. Many of the stars of figure skating send their skates to Davos for grinding. Claudio Meng is not only a knife maker, but also dedicated to ice sports. The President of the ISCD specialized in skate grinding and refined his technique over the years. So it happens again and again that the ice skates of ice princess Sarah Meier or world champion Stéphane Lambiel are in his workshops in Davos or Zurich.

### **Fun on Natural Ice**

One natural ice surface has been preserved in Davos: the approximately 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> area on the Dorfseeli is particularly popular with families. The Davos Wiesen school building features a 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> natural ice rink for ice skating fun.

### **Arena Klosters**

The sports centre Klosters, which opened in 1996, was renamed «Arena Klosters» in 2016 due to a wider offering. The sports facilities are located in the centre of the resort. In winter, two artificial ice rinks are available for ice hockey, figure skating, Bavarian curling and curling (4 rinks). The ice rinks can be reserved for private events. The inviting restaurant in the Arena Klosters offers a spacious winter garden and a generous sun terrace. The menu is varied and ideal for sportspeople who want to eat before or after skating.

### **Long Ice Skating Tradition**

In the second half of the 19th century, ice-skating was primarily a leisure activity for spa guests from all over Europe. In 1865 the frozen Lake Davos was used for ice skating, in 1869 the first artificially constructed ice rink was built on today's Arcade Square. In the winter of 1870/71, a small ice rink was built on the site of today's sports centre, which was expanded in 1880/81 and developed into an ice sports centre in the following years. The large natural ice rink was operated by the Kurverein resp. Davos Destinations-Organisation until 2016.

### **Mecca of Ice Sports**

Various sports – mostly for the first time in Switzerland – were played on the Davos ice rinks. In 1888 the first official curling season took place in Davos, and in 1891 British guests founded one of the first curling clubs in Switzerland. In the same year, in 1891, the first international ice skating competitions were held on the big ice rink. Until 1977 Davos remained the mecca of speed skating and figure skating. A total of around 50 European and World Championships were held. The last World Cup races in speed skating took place in Davos in 1998.

Bandy, the precursor of ice hockey, was first played in Switzerland in 1890/91 in Davos, where the very first European Championship of this sport was held in 1913.

In 1918, the first Davos ice hockey club was founded, today's HCD was founded in 1921, and the Spengler Cup was founded in 1923 when Dr. Carl Spengler – the son of spa founder Alexander Spengler – donated a traveling trophy. With 30 Swiss championship titles and 15 Spengler Cup victories, the HC Davos is Switzerland's most successful ice hockey club.

#### **Useful Links**

Ice sports at a glance

[davos.ch/en/winter/activities/ice-sports/](https://davos.ch/en/winter/activities/ice-sports/)

Hockey Club Davos

[hcd.ch](https://hcd.ch)

Spengler Cup

[spenglercup.ch](https://spenglercup.ch)

International Ice Skating Club Davos

[davos-skating.ch](https://davos-skating.ch)

Art on Ice

[artonice.com/en](https://artonice.com/en)

### **Destination Davos Klosters**

Davos Klosters is one of the most famous holiday resorts in the world and boasts the most comprehensive holiday, sports and meeting facilities in the mountains. Although the contrast between urban Davos and idyllic Klosters could not be greater, both villages, which lie only ten minutes drive from each other, have one thing in common: their fascinating and breathtaking mountain backdrop.

[www.davos.ch](http://www.davos.ch) | [www.klosters.ch](http://www.klosters.ch)

### **Further information**

Basic articles, facts and figures as well as background information can be obtained in our [Media Corner](#). News can be found on our [news page](#) or on our social media channels – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#).

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[Image database Davos Klosters](#).