

WASSERWEG

A TRAIL THAT REVEALS THE LANDSCAPE, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND
COMMUNITY THAT ALREADY SHAPES GOSAU

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Water powers Gosau, but few people experience the system behind it.

WHY?

For generations, water has shaped Gosau, flowing from the Gosau lakes through channels, and power stations before reaching the Hallstättersee. Yet its relationship to infrastructure, landscape, and community often remains invisible. The WASSERWEG makes these connections visible and creates new opportunities for residents and visitors to engage with the valley.

HOW?

The WASSERWEG builds on existing infrastructure and local partnerships, allowing visitors to follow water through a hydropower system serving the region for over a century. Developed with the municipality, power plant operators, and the local sports club, it requires only limited intervention while enabling guided tours, educational programmes, and local engagement.

WHAT?

The WASSERWEG is a hiking trail linking the Steeg power station, the Gosau power station, the village centre, and the Hinterer Gosausee. Stations along the route present different aspects of the valley including hydropower, salt extraction, alpine sports, and seasonal rhythms, and can be expanded over time by local organisations and businesses.

SWIM RUN

Each spring, the WASSERWEG becomes the setting for an annual swim-run event, attracting participants from beyond Gosau and activating the valley as a whole. Stations transform into gathering points where music is played, food is shared, and participants are cheered on by residents and visitors.

The WASSERWEG does not introduce a new attraction to Gosau. It reveals and celebrates the landscape, infrastructure, and community that already exist.