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[Winter sports resorts in Austria and Japan.](#)

Foreign Title : Wintersportgebiete in Österreich und Japan.

Author(s) : Kureha, M.

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Abstract : This comparative geographical study examines the processes associated with the development of winter resorts in Austria and Japan. Historical spatial analyses are provided, and three main elements are examined: the volume of tourists, the sports and skiing facilities provided in the resort itself, and the development of the surrounding region. Three areas with different development characteristics were selected for study: Sölden in the Austrian Tyrol, Katash

central Japan, and Appi-Kogen in eastern Japan. The study comprises two parts. The first examines the development processes associated with the resorts in each region, while the second compares regional and socioeconomic conditions for development at each resort. The findings indicate many differences in the development of ski resorts between Austria and Japan. In Austria, ski resorts tend to be larger and high quality, and better served by facilities and services such as banks, travel bureaux and ski schools. Tourists tend to stay longer, generally for one or two weeks, compared to weekend day trips in Japan. A wider range of accommodation and activities therefore tends to be offered in Austria. In Austria, the development of resorts began mainly in the 1960s, while in Japan, it only really took off in the 1980s. Further, environmental considerations are seen as very important in Austria, while they are as yet non-existent in Japan.

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