Winter sports resorts in Austria and Japan.

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Abstract: This comparative geographical study examines the processes and conditions associated with the development of winter resorts in Austria and Japan. Historical and spatial analyses are provided, and three main elements are examined: the winter sports tourists, the sports and skiing facilities provided in the resort itself, and the developed in 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 main parts. The first examines the development processes associated with the resorts in each country, while the second compares regional and socioeconomic conditions for development in each resort. The findings indicate many differences in the development of winter resorts between Austria and Japan. In Austria, ski resorts tend to be larger and higher, and are better served by facilities and services such as banks, travel bureaux and shops. Visitors 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 need 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.

Descriptor(s): infrastructure, international comparisons, recreational facilities, skiing facilities, tourists, trends, winter resorts, winter sports

Geographical Location(s): Austria, Japan

Broader term(s): Central Europe, Europe, Developed Countries, European Union, OECD Countries, APEC countries, East Asia, Asia

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