

Eine Skiroute durch Österreich



4 federal states
 15 skiing days
 570 km
 more than 60.000 meters of gained altitude
 27 ski areas
 107 ski lifts
 18 ski tours
 time on the move: 98:27 hours

West 2 East is a ski road movie documentary accompanying two avid skiers Lukas Böhm and Bastian Meier on their quest to cross Austria west to east on skis. The two start off at the westernmost chair lift in Austria and use skis, skins, chair lifts, gondolas, T-bars and ski buses to head further and further east. They document their progress and unexpected adventures along the way using cameras and drones for this 30 minute movie. A movie that highlights the Austrian Alps in a stunning and new perspective.


 570,4
 km


 15
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 12.700 40.853 60.531
 m m m



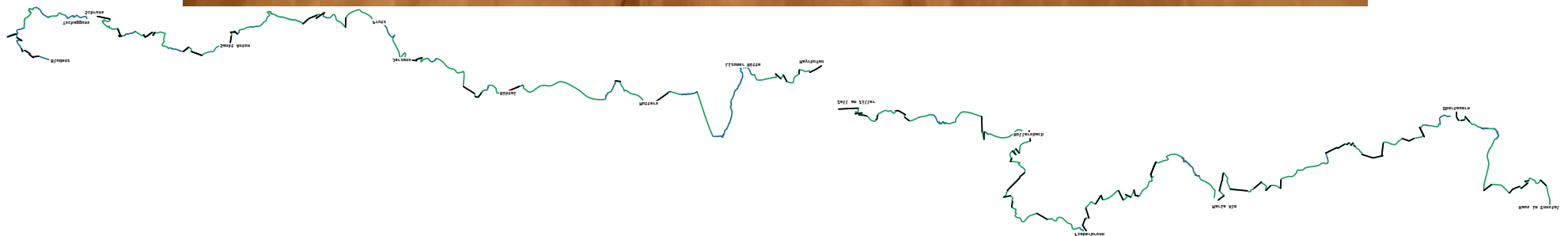
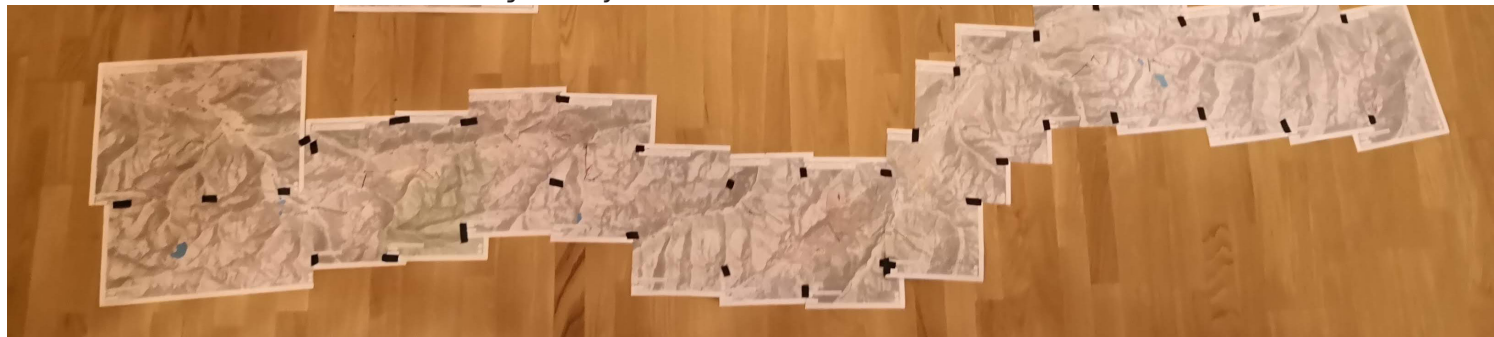
What's the route of West 2 East like?

At the start there was a simple question: "is this even possible?" Is it possible to cross Austria on skis in a reasonable amount of time? In which direction and where to start?

The starting point was quickly found. The 'Glattjochbahn' in the 'Brandner' Valley is the westernmost chairlift in Austria and only 4.5 km from the Swiss border. The route through 'Vorarlberg' passing the 'Lünersee', the 'Montafon', the 'Sonnenkopf' and leaving the state at the famous 'Arlberg' was quite easy to plan. Not as straightforward were the COVID-19 regulations in the winter of 2020/2021 that led to the closing down of many ski lifts.

Through Tirol it was crucial to stick close to the 'Inntal' heading east and not get sidetracked to the south, heading into the glaciers of the main alps. Thus the route continues using the skiing areas of 'See', 'Serfaus', 'Fis', 'Ladis' towards 'Oetz' culminating in an approach towards Innsbruck, the capital city of Tirol via the 'Kühtai' and the 'Patscherkofel'. Moving further the 'Zillertal' and the Mountain Pass 'Gerlos' paved the way to enter Salzburg. In the state of Salzburg the famous skiing villages like 'Kitzbühel', 'Saalbach' and 'Zell-am-See' were reached and subsequently passed.

The last big leg of the journey was leaving Salzburg behind and entering the state of Styria via the village of 'Obertauern' and culminating in the 'Enns' Valley. After 570 km and more than 60.000 meters climbed the journey ends (for now).





What to expect from West 2 East?

West 2 East sets out to answer a question that has not been asked very often. Can you cross Austria on skis lengthwise? The answer to this question once proposed however is intriguing.

After the 32 minute film the answer to this question as well as a tongue in cheek commentary on the natural landscape of the Austrian Alps will be given. How much infrastructure is really needed 'up there' in the mountains? How different is the serene nature on a 3000m peak without a soul in sight from perfectly groomed slopes and the rattling of chairlifts entering the station?

With all this in mind the 'esthetic picture' skinning up the mountain in beautiful sunshine, breathtaking views from winterly peaks and runs down the mountain in pristine powder are plentiful.

Bastian and Lukas recount their adventure crossing Austria chronologically without embellishing anything. Sometimes there just is no snow on the dirt road. Sometimes the next ski bus will arrive in 3 days. In these situations you pick up your skis, hum a tune and start walking.

Or the peak might be covered in thick clouds and the fresh snow is waist high as far as the eye can see (which is not far at all). In situations like these filming and adventuring takes a backseat to experience and education safely navigating this beautiful but also dangerous terrain. Is the chosen line safe? Is the prepared alternative less risky?



Who are the faces behind West 2 East?



Bastian Meier is the director of West 2 East. With his production company bitframe he has been very successful in the ski and mountaineering film space in Austria for many years.

For example with the first freeride ski film from Vienna 'Freeride Melange' and its successor 'Mokka – ein Schluck wiener Skikultur'. In addition to sports related films bitframe is also working in TV productions and advertisement.

It is not only for his business that Bastian lugs heavy filming equipment to some of the highest peaks in the Alps. In his leisure time he goes skiing and mountain biking or longboarding with his beach volleyball in hand through the cities.

For West 2 East the 32 year old from the city of Graz is the second protagonist, narrator and drone pilot. And he is really fast uphill as well.

Bastian Meier 32 years old

Occupation: bitframe

Hobbies: brews his own craft beer

Who are the faces behind West 2 East?

Lukas Böhm is inventor & producer of West 2 East and has been a passionate skier for all his life.

After spending most of his time as a student on the Arlberg as a ski instructor rather than studying at university, Lukas now had to find another way to fuel his passion for skiing while still working as an IT Product Manager.

Following his contributions to the ski movie spurbar [the fascination] the 34 year old from Graz is now realizing his own dream of making and starring in a ski movie. Albeit without big airtime or unbelievably steep ravines. In this movie captivating ideas, beautiful vistas and a lot of humor accompany Lukas to well known (and lesser known) summits and valleys in the Austrian Alps.

In West 2 East Lukas is the main protagonist, second camera operator and in charge of the safe and correct route to the next destination.

Lukas Böhm 34 years old

Occupation: IT Product Manager

Hobbies: Thinking about skiing in the summer.



Online
west2east.online

Instagram
instagram.com/_west2east_

Trailer
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