

# The hills are ALIVE!

Grab a scarf and wrap up warm as NG KiDS heads to Zillertal in the Austrian Alps for a hike *inside* the majestic Hintertux Glacier...



With breathtaking views stretching across Austria, Germany and Italy, the Hintertux Glacier towers over the valley below, slowly flowing through its rocky alpine home. At this altitude — 3,250m above sea level — all is quiet, save for the gentle whir of cable cars ferrying skiers up to the glacier's snowy surface. Taking a deep breath and surveying the awe-inspiring scenery, we set off to find out more about this spectacular, icy world...

## DID YOU KNOW...?

The Hintertux Glacier contains 190 million cubic metres of ice — or 171 billion litres of water!

NG KiDS' Tim and son Jamie stood on the glacier!



People ski on the glacier 365 days a year!



## Amazing ice

Hintertux is an alpine glacier, a giant mass of ice which started forming in this mountainous region hundreds of years ago. One of 80 glaciers in the Zillertal region of Austria, Hintertux is covered in snow all year round at its top. The ice is up to 120m thick at its deepest point.

But how, exactly, did it form? Well, in the past more snow fell here in the winter than melted in the summer, so the snow built up.

Snow begins to compress soon after it's fallen, becoming more tightly packed. So when new snow falls it buries this granular snow, compressing it even more — until it becomes a dense, grainy ice called 'firn'.

As years go by, layers of firn build on top of each other, and when it's about 50m thick, the firn grains fuse into a huge mass of solid ice — known as a glacier!