

Dear AIVS Delegates,

The time for our next meeting is upon us. We have an excellent registration, and a full schedule of presentations. The only exception is on Wednesday when we will be taking a bus as a group to Krippenstein, for the day. We will return in the afternoon to a keg of Guinness instead of our afternoon meeting.

On Saturday evening, we will have a welcome reception, and begin the program on Sunday morning. I have attached the draft program which will be available online shortly, and throughout the meeting. This will allow us to change the program as necessary without re-printing. It will be available from the Home page of the website (aivsconf.com) on any electronic device.

The website works best using Google Chrome as the browser.

A few things deserve mentioning or reiterating prior to arrival.

1. As mentioned below, the wine will not be included with dinner, and we will be expected to order our own wine. This was as per instructions from the hotel and is coordinate with the pricing of the rooms with half board. After we each buy our own wines, or cocktails, the expense for room and half-board will still be on the low side for one of our congresses.
2. Consider pre-booking your ski hire by using email. We will be getting a 10% discount whether they are pre-booked, or booked at the time of arrival. However, to maximize the chance of having the skis of your choice, you should consider pre-booking. This may be done by sending an email to Cooee@checkpointsport.com (I tried to insert a hyperlink (<https://checkpointsport.com/cooee-ski-verleih>) to the website, but Gmail was not happy, so simply paste into your browser or use email.
4. Ski passes will be available at the mountain, and you may visit the website for pricing prior to arrival. <https://www.dachstein.at/en/tickets-prices.html>
3. There will be no ski race this year. In recent past years, we have forgone this event in recent years, as it has been a great expense, and we are doing our best to hold expenses in check to be able to allow an affordable meeting for all those who prefer to attend.
4. After you have had a chance to review the program, please reach out to me by email, aivsdocuments@gmail.com, to request any changes. I have done my best to group the subject matter by relevance, and to respect peoples' travel restrictions. However, I acknowledge that I might have left something out, or made an error.

Have an easy journey over. I know that we all look forward to the Congress, and being able to reunite and build AIVS to the strength it has been before COVID-19.

I have attached a note from Prakash regarding local arrangements. He and the rest of the Irish team have done a phenomenal job with continuous communication among themselves, the hotel, and me. Please see his note below. And remember to review the program.

Mark Adelman
Chairman, AIVS

Vic Vucemilo
President, AIVS 2023

Prakash Madhavan
Local arrangements Chair, 2023

From Prakash Madhavan:

Dear AIVS members - it is only a week to go before we all congregate in Austria. We have worked quite hard to put this whole package together and I am delighted that so many are going. You will all agree that the deal worked out is very favourable, and there are a few things that we would like everyone to know prior to coming to Austria.

We have deliberately kept the wine for dinner out of the overall package and we felt that it would be a lot fairer to just order what we want and not have a standard amount given to each table. The hotel was very clear in that they could not do a per head wine consumption deal much as we had tried to arrange in the first place. This just means that we each will have to order what we want, and it will be charged to your room to be settled on checkout. I'm quite sure this will work and there is a variety of wines on offer which should be acceptable to all of us.

We are organising a trip mid week to a glacier called Krippenstein by bus. It is one of Europe's longest ski runs and interestingly there is only one run all the way down. We should enjoy the day and given that we have decided not to have any scientific meetings on Wednesday, we will all come back for the reception in the evening prior to our dinner.

Please make your reservations for skis well in advance which would ideally be done on the website of the ski shop and details are on the registration document. You should mention the AIVS group and you will automatically get a 10% discount. It

would be ideal for you to do that in advance of coming to Gosau, so that your skis have been put aside for you.

We have talked about having a seating arrangement for a few days and we have decided that there will be a table for each of the national representatives and we will move around people on different days. It will allow us all to get to know each other and given that the AIVS group is in a state of flux, we all look forward to making new friends and acquaintances. Members travelling with children can make their own arrangements.

Prakash Madhavan
Local arrangements Chair, 2023