

Across the Alps Hiking Tour

An Inn & Hut Hiking Adventure in Germany, Austria and Italy

This spectacular tour crosses the Alps from picturesque Bavaria to the glaciated peaks of the Tyrol and on to the Mediterranean Meran on the famous "E5" trekking route. Beautiful mountain huts at 6000 to 9000 feet are mixed with charming hotels and guesthouses down in the valleys. Wildflower-filled meadows, glaciers, and rugged peaks highlight one of Europe's most famous and challenging trails.

Day 1. Arrive in Munich and Transfer to Oy-Mittelberg, Gasthaus Krone Mittelberg (011-49-83-66-98-32-00 / <http://www.krone-mittelberg.de/> private bath)

Your trip begins with a scenic train ride from Munich International Airport to the beautiful little Guesthouse Krone in the scenic Bavarian village of Oy-Mittelberg. The surrounding area offer fields of flowers, dark forests, mountain pastures and the scenery of the Algauer-Alps.

We spend a night in this idyllic and quiet place where cows have the right of way each day when coming home for milking and where church bells are the only noise to be heard at night.

Here you have time to relax, stroll the village streets or walk a path with panoramic views before sitting down to our welcome reception dinner.

- Arrival at Munich International Airport
- Transfer to Oy-Mittelberg [2 hours]
- Welcome dinner

Day 2. Transfer to Obertsdorf and Hike to Kemptner Hut, Kemptner Hut (011-83-2270-0152 / www.kemptner-huette.de / no showers / dormitory style)

A steep ascent begins at the end of a wooded valley and climbs to alpine meadows surrounded by rugged peaks. Built in 1891 the Kemptner-Hut is at 6057 feet of altitude and has been owned by the same family for the past 34 years. A three-course Bavarian meal has something for everyone.

- Bus transfer to Obertsdorf, Germany [1 hour]
- Hike up to Kemptner Hut [4 miles, 3.5 hours, 2800 feet of elevation gain]

Day 3. Hike to Holzgau, Austria and Memminger Hut (011-43-5634-6208)

<http://www.hutten.be/Oostenrijk/htn-at-memminger.html> / shared bath / dormitory style)

We hike up to a ridge and look for eagles and marmots. The scenery is stunning. We cross the border

high up in the mountains before descending to Holzgau in Tyrol, Austria. After a drink, a bus brings us to 4600 feet where we transfer our packs to a small cable car to be transported to Memminger Hut. Then we hike up to the scenic hut set on a green grassy plateau at 8050 feet. After dinner we climb a summit from where we watch the sunset and enjoy a unique, quiet evening.

- Hike to Memminger Hut [8 miles, 6 hours, 2800 feet of elevation loss/3100 feet of elevation gain]

Day 4. Hike to Seescharte and Innvalley, Pension Gemse (Zams) (+43-5442-63001)

Today we start early in the morning passing an alpine lake surrounded by meadows with flowers and ascend the Seescharte, a pass which is 8600 feet high. Here we have a spectacular view over the summits and down to the Innvalley. On a long but scenic descent we drop 5900 feet, walking through all different vegetation zones. At the very rustic and authentic Pension Gemse (Chamonix) we enjoy the luxury of a tasty dinner, shower and bed.

- Hike to Seescharte and Innvalley [12 miles, 6-1/2 hours, 1400 feet of elevation gain / 5900 feet of elevation loss]

Day 5. Hike to Braunschweiger Hut, Braunschweiger Hut (011-43-535-3722 / <http://www.braunschweiger-huette.at/> /shared bath / dormitory style)

We use the gondola to reach high altitude again (7300 feet), then follow a ridge along Venet mountain and cross several summits. The view is stunning in all directions. We reach the next valley, the Pitztal where a bus takes us to the very end of it. After lunch in a cozy mountain guesthouse we transfer our backpacks to the cable car and follow the trail along a waterfall. Soon we see glacier tongues hanging on steep walls. Our home is the Braunschweiger hut was built in 1892 and is majestically set among a chain of glaciated mountains dominated by the Wildspitze (12500 feet). At 9100 feet, it is the highest hut on the European

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trekking trail E5. After a hearty dinner we enjoy the solitude and silence of this beautiful spot.

- Hike to Braunschweiger Hut [8 miles, 6 to 7 hours, 3800 feet of elevation gain/2600 feet of elevation loss]

Day 6. Hike to Pitzaler Jöchel, Hotel Post (011-43-5254-2910 / www.neue-post.cc / private bath)

From the Braunschweiger hut we hike to the highest point of the traverse, the Pitztaler Jöchel (9900 feet). Here we scramble across some rocks and have a good chance to spot some “Steinböcke”, animals similar to mountain sheep but not shy at all and equipped with long horns. We cross over some snow and descend into the famous Oetztal (where the 5000 year old “Iceman” glacier mummy was found).

Enjoy a massage or a sauna after you settle in to the Hotel Post before sitting down to a sumptuous local dinner.

- Hike to Pitzaler Jöchel [10 miles, 6 to 7 hours, 1100 feet of elevation gain/2400 feet of elevation loss]

Day 7. Transfer to Timmelsjoch and Hike to Moos, Italy, Pfandler Alm Hut (no telephone / <http://www.fernwanderweg5.de/etappe8.shtml> / shared bath / dormitory style)

A short bus transfer brings us to the Timmelsjoch (8600 feet) where we hike from Austria down to the small Italian village of Moos. The shuttle brings us to the Sandwirt restaurant where we have our first Italian lunch. With the sun at our backs we descend over the Gilft waterfall to Pfandler Alm, where we spend the night. The small hut is extremely charming with a friendly innkeeper who will arrange a great barbecue if weather permits.

- Shuttle to Timmelsjoch [30 minutes]
- Hike to Moos, Italy [3 miles, 1.5 hours, 4800 feet of elevation loss]
- Hike to Pfandler Alm Hut [9 miles, 7 hours, 2900 feet of elevation gain]

Day 8. Hike to Hinteregg Alm, Hotel Europa (011-39-473-232376 / www.europa-splendid.com / private baths)

Trip Details

Trip Type: Inn & Hut

Trip Length: 10 days/9 nights

2012 Departure Dates: July 5-14, August 9-18, September 12-21 (Oktoberfest begins on September 22)

Price: \$2,098

Single Supplement: \$400 (inns only, not available in the huts)

Group Size: Minimum 6 / maximum 16 (there will be one guide for 6-10 guests and 2 guides for 11-16 guests)

Trip Rating: Challenging

On our final day of hiking, we cross alpine meadows to the Hinteregg Alm (6600 feet). From here we have a spectacular view to the Ortler (12800 feet), the highest peak in the eastern Alps. After another 1-1/2 hour we reach the gondola which takes us down to Meran. We have now completely crossed the Alps and will enjoy strolling through the medieval city of Meran. Dinner tonight is in our nicely located downtown Hotel Europa.

Meran is a jewel in the midst of the Alps, embedded in wonderful mountain scenery and blessed with a Mediterranean climate. The city's reputation as a thermal and climatic health resort has a long history. Listen to the sounds of visiting world-famous string orchestras in the spa centre (Kurhaus), stroll through the picturesque lanes of the old part of town or discover Meran's energetic night life.

- Hike to Hinteregg Alm [7 miles, 4 to 5 hours, 2800 feet of elevation gain/2800 feet of elevation loss]

Day 9. Transfer to Oy-Mittelberg, Gasthaus Krone Mittelberg (011-49-83-66-98-32-00 / <http://www.krone-mittelberg.de> / private bath)

After breakfast the bus takes us back to Oy-Mittelberg. On this scenic drive through the Alps we visit “Iceman” glacier mummy in the museum in Bozen.

- Visit to “Iceman” museum in Bozen, Italy
- Transfer to Oy-Mittelberg [4 to 5 hours]

Day 10. Transfer to Munich International Airport and Flights Home

Our fabulous three-country Alps adventure concludes today after breakfast with a train transfer to the Munich International Airport.

- Train transfer to Munich International Airport [2-1/2 hours]
- International flights home

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Activities: Hike (8 days)

Gateway City: Munich, Germany

Meeting Time & Place: Gasthaus Krone in Mittelberg anytime before dinner on Day 1

Trip Conclusion: Train ride from Mittelberg to Munich airport anytime on Day 11

Trip Fees Include: Dinners (Days 1-9) and breakfasts (Days 2-10), accommodations, activities as described in the itinerary, train ticket from Munich to Oy-Mittelberg and return, van transfers, park and museum entrance fees, and professional English-speaking guide(s) [there will be two guides for groups of 10 or more].

Trip Fees Exclude: International airfare to and from Munich, all lunches (at huts, guest houses and inns), snacks (snacks are not provided so you should bring these along if you want them), personal expenses, alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and bottled water, and guide and driver gratuities.

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Malanify, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call James TravelPoints, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

General Information, Questions & Answers

What weather conditions can I expect? The summer in the Alps mixes warm dry periods with rain and thunderstorms which can be severe. Normally you hike in shorts and a T-shirt. However it becomes cooler at altitude and snow is even a possibility above 6000 feet. Wind, thunderstorms and driving rain can create hypothermia. Weather proof clothes, hat and gloves are a must.

How difficult is this trip...Really? This is a trip for those with hiking experience. We will spend five to seven hours a day engaged in moderate to challenging hiking. You have to carry your backpack with approximately 20-25 pounds of clothing and essentials throughout the trip. At some huts a cable car will help. The daily elevation gain varies from 1100 feet to more than 3800 feet. There are steep descents of as much as 5900 feet. You must be quite fit, used to walking on rough terrain and have some previous experience in alpine trekking. Sometimes you will need your hands to scramble over rocks. There are no technical difficulties which require a rope or crampons, however.

Tour Operator: This tour is conducted by an experienced tour operator from Oy-Mittelberg, Germany. They were selected for their reputation, service and reliability. Bavarian or Austrian guides from the area will lead the tours and they are fluent in English (two guides will be provided for groups of 10 or more).

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Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Malanify at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

You can also contact our local tour operator, Hagen Alpin Tours at 011-49-8366-988-893 before 6:00 p.m. or Winfried Hagen at home at 011-49-8366-9226 or on his cell at 011-49-171-3708894. If in Germany, skip the "011-49" and add a "0" before the rest of the numbers.

Passport & Visa Requirements: Visitors need a passport that is valid for at least six months after the expiry date of your visa for entry in to Germany, Austria and Italy. You should always carry your passport with you during your visit and all hotels will insist on seeing it. You do not need a visa for any of these countries.

In general, what are the accommodations like? All hotels/pensions are two or three-star rated, have private baths and are very representative of the local culture. The huts, all situated in fabulous alpine settings, have coin-operated showers (except Memminger Hut, which has no shower facilities) and typically sleep up to 16 per room. We attempt to get smaller rooms that accommodate 4-6 guests but are not always able to do so.

Money in Germany, Austria and Italy: The European Euro is the currency in use in all three countries. The rate of exchange as of August 4, 2009 is one Euro equals \$US 1.44 (or one U.S. dollar equals 0.694 Euro). The euro is available in seven different bills and eight separate coins. The bills are available in 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 euro denominations. The coins are available in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 euro cents, and 1 and 2 euro denominations. Nations may change the term "cent" and call the new coins by the names of earlier currency. While all the coins will have the same front, each country puts national symbols on the back of those coins minted in that country. Regardless of what they are called in each nation and what symbols they display, the coins are interchangeable.

Medical Information: You should have a current vaccination for Tetanus-Diphtheria (to be done every 10 years). A web site with further information is the National Center for Infectious Diseases site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>.

Food & Water: Tap water, ice and food are generally quite safe in Germany, Austria and Italy.

We're Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.