

Alpentraversale: From the Watzmann to Tre Cime (Drei Zinnen)

The alpine traverse is in a class of its own - a highlight every day. This alpine crossing from north to south is hard to beat in terms of uniqueness and beauty. The crossing of the Northern Limestone Alps - past the famous Watzmann east face - over the unique limestone landscape of the Stone Sea. Continue to the Central Alps with the mighty glacier mountains of the Great Wiesbachhorn and Grossglockner. The Großglockner alone (3,798 m), the highest mountain in Austria, offers us from every side a different perspective, from the north, the famous Nordwandisinnen and from the south, the steeply sloping rock landscape. We continue to roam through the gentle Villgraten mountains of East Tyrol with their beautifully situated lakes and alpine pastures until we finally reach the steep rock massifs of the Dolomites, with the world-famous Three Peaks. On this varied hike we experience something special every day.

Our accommodations include some of the best huts in the [Alpine Association](#). The views are amazing, the food delicious, and we do our best to book private rooms each night.

Physical Conditions:

Strenuous: Up to 8000 feet of combined ascent and descent daily and stages up to 9 hours of pure walking time. Walking intervals of 2 hours without a break. The indicated walking time in the daily descriptions does not include time taken for breaks or lunch.

Technical requirements:

A head for heights, sure-footedness and mountain experience are required. You do not need technical climbing skills to participate in this hike, but you should be comfortable scrambling across boulders, hiking steep inclines and declines using cables and/or ladders (without harness attachment), and be comfortable navigating trails with steep drop-offs. This hike is considered strenuous or very strenuous based on the technical level, the hours spent hiking each day, and daily ascents of 3000 – 4100 feet. This hike is not van supported so you will carry what you need from hut to hut.

Pre Departure Day:

Arrive in Berchtesgaden at your leisure. Visit local WWII historical sites, do a day hike, take a boat ride on the Konigsee, visit with locals and do a last check of your gear.

Because of the technical aspect of this hike if you do not have the required items you will either need to purchase them before we depart in the morning or you will not be able to join the hike.

Day 1

Travel by boat across the Königssee, with a view of the famous Watzmann east face, to St. Bartholomä. Ascent through the Saugasse to the Kärlinger Haus (1,638 m) on the picturesque Funtensee lake. At Christmas 2001, the Wetterstation Funtensee recorded the lowest temperature ever recorded in Germany at -45.9°C ; Therefore, the Funtensee is considered the "cold pole" of Germany.

Walking time approx. 5 hours, ascent 1.050 m (3450 ft), descent 50 m (165 ft), length approx. 10 km of route Technical Route Category: Simple Mountain Trail

Overnight: [Kärlingerhaus](#)



Bring a sleep sheet for use at this hut. One may be rented, but availability depends on demand and is first come, first served.

Day 2

Crossing the karstified plateau of the Steinerne Meer. After about 3 hours we reach the Riemannhaus (2,177 m), where we take our well-deserved lunch break. From here a steep, partly with wire ropes assured way down to Maria Alm. Taxi transfer to Ferleiten (about 1 hour). Rise and overnight in a rustic Alm in Käfertal.

Walking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 850 m (2800), descent 1,100 m (3600 ft), length approx. 11.5 km

Technical Route category [\(show details\)](#) : Varied Mountain Trail BBRRBB

Overnight at Trauner Alm

Overnight: [Trauner Alm](#)



Day 3

Freshly fortified after a hearty breakfast, we ascend under the mighty glacier scenery from the Großer Wiesbachhorn and Fuscherkarkopf to the Pfandlscharte (2,665 m). From here you have a wonderful view of the Grossglockner. Then it goes with a short ascent to the traditional Glockner house at 2,132 m (7000 ft), our present-day accommodation.

Walking time approx. 7.5 hours, ascent 1.200 m (3900 ft), descent 650 m (2150 ft), length approx. 8.5 km

Technical Route category [\(show details\)](#) : Varied Mountain Trail BBRRBB

Overnight: [Glocknerhaus](#)



Day 4

After a short descent to the Margaritzen reservoir we continue in the direction of Heiligenblut to the branch in the Leiertal. The route continues along the Leiterbach to the Glorer hut (2,642 m). After a well-deserved lunch break we descend to the Lucknerhaus (1,918 m), our current accommodation. From here, the Grossglockner can again be admired from a different perspective.

Walking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 850 m (2800 ft), descent 1,050 m (3450 ft), length approx. 14 km

Technical Route category [\(show details\)](#) : Mostly Simple Mountain Trail BRBBBB

Overnight: [Luckner House](#)



Day 5

Taxi transfer to Defereggental. There is a crossing of the Villgraten mountains. From St. Jakob we reach the Mooseralm with a chairlift. From here we climb up to Ochsenlenke and hike, past the Degenhornsee, on to the Arntaler Lenke. Descent across the Arntal to Unterstalleralm and continue by bus to Innervillgraten (1,403 m). Overnight in a pension.

Walking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 600 m (2000 ft), descent 1,250 m (4100 ft), length approx. 12.5 km

Route category ([show details](#)) : Varied Mountain Trail BRRBBB

Overnight: [Gasthof Raiffeisen](#)



Day 6

The transition from the Innervillgrater Valley into the Pustertal takes us over the 2,663 m high Toblacher Pfannhorn. From here we have a magnificent view of the Dolomites and back to the Grossglockner Group. A promising descent brings us to the Bonner hut (2,340 m) where we can enjoy the local cuisine. From here we descend to the small hamlet Kandellen (1,575 m). Afterwards we take the bus via Sexten to the Innerfeldtal and in just 30 minutes we get to our current accommodation, the Dreischusterhütte (1,626 m).

Walking time approx. 7.5 hours, ascent 1,000 m (3300 ft), descent 1,100 m (3600 ft), length approx. 12.5 km

Route category ([show details](#)) : Varied Mountain Trail BBRRBB

Overnight: [Drei-Schuster-Hütte](#)



Day 7

The last ascent leads us through the picturesque Innerfeldtal Valley to Drei Zinnen Hütte (2,438 m). From here we have an overwhelming view of the north walls of the famous Drei Zinnen. After a well-deserved lunch break, we reach the Auronzo hut after another hour. From there, the transfer via the Felbertauern Tunnel back to Berchtesgaden. Arrival about 19.00 clock.

Overnight in Berchtesgaden

Walking time approx. 4 hours, ascent 950 m (3100 ft), descent 250 m (825 ft), length approx. 10.5 km

Route category ([show details](#)) : BBBBBB



Departure Day

After breakfast depart at your convenience to continue your travel independently. There is much to do around Berchtesgaden or travel to Salzburg or Munich for flights around Europe.

Duration: 7 days,

- Mountain guides
- 5 x half board (breakfast and dinner day 2 - 6)
- 1 breakfast (Day 7)
- 1 dinner (Day 1)
- 4 x taxi
- 1 x bus
- 1 x cable car ride
- 1 x boat trip

Additional costs: According to personal needs in cash about € 40.- per day for drinks, backpack provisions, etc. A card payment is not possible at many of the huts.

Region: Berchtesgaden Alps (Germany, Austria), Hohe Tauern (Austria), Dolomites (Italy)

Map recommendation:

- Compass Map Berchtesgadener Land, WK 14 (1 : 50.000)
- Compass Map National Park Hohe Tauern, WK 50 (1 : 50.000)
- Compass Map Bruneck-Toblach, WK 57 (1 : 50.000)

Getting to the Königsee / Berchtesgaden: Take advantage of the good rail connections to Berchtesgaden. From Berchtesgaden Train Station you can easily reach the car park at Königsee (Seestrasse 3, tourist information) by public transport. By car via the B8 Munich – Salzburg, exit Bad Reichenhall, then via the B20 to Berchtesgaden. From the south via the Tauern Autobahn, exit Salzburg Süd, then via the B305 to Berchtesgaden / Schönau and on to the parking lot Königsee, Seestrasse 3. (chargeable permanent parking for € 5-10./day).