

Alpentraversale 2020: From the Watzmann to Tre Cime (Drei Zinnen)

June 24 – July 2, 2020

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 is an awesome adventure. Then we 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 a different perspective from every side, from the north, the famous Nordwandisrinnen and from the south, the steeply sloping rock landscape. We then roam through the gentle Villgraten mountains of East Tyrol with its beautiful lakes and alpine pastures until we finally reach the steep rock massifs of the Dolomites, with the world-famous Tre Cime. On this hike we experience something unique and special every day. Our accommodations include some of the best huts in the Alpine Association. The views are amazing, the food delicious, and we have private rooms each night.

Physical Conditions:

Strenuous: Up to 4000 feet of ascent and a like amount of descent, and daily 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 (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.



Day 1 - 24 June 2020

Meeting point: June 24, 2020 at 4:00pm in Hotel Grunberger, Hansererweg 1, Berchtesgaden, Germany. We will gather for a brief overview of the hike and gear check. Please pay close attention to the Packing List and especially to the items listed as required. **Because of the technical aspect of this hike if you do not have the required items you will either need to purchase them the evening before we depart, or you will not be able to join the hike.**



Getting to the Königsee / Berchtesgaden: Take advantage of the good rail connections to Berchtesgaden. You can fly to Salzburg and there is train service to Berchtesgaden with several trains per day. The fare is inexpensive, about \$15.00 and the ride is approximately 1 hour. There is also bus service which is slightly less expensive, and the ride is anywhere from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. The airports in Munich and Innsbruck are also options with longer commute times to Berchtesgaden but flights may be less expensive from the US. The best thing to do is to look at the options available and choose the itinerary which works best for you and gets you to our hotel in Berchtesgaden by 4:00pm on June 24. We will return to the same hotel on the evening of July 1 so flights out should not be scheduled until July 2.

Day 2 – 25 June 2020



After breakfast we travel by boat across the Königsee, with a view of the famous Watzmann east face, to St. Bartholomä. After disembarking we ascend 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

Technical Route Category: Moderately Strenuous

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

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 3 – 26 June 2020



Today we cross the Karstified Plateau of the Steinerne Meer. After about 3 hours we reach the Riemannhaus (2,177 m), where we take our lunch break. From here we have a steep descent, partly with cables on the way down to Maria Alm. After reaching our goal we taxi transfer to Ferleiten (about 1 hour). Tonight, we overnight in rustic Trauner 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: Strenuous/Technical

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight at Trauner Alm



Day 4 – 27 June 2020



While the mileage for today's hike is relatively short, we climb 3900 feet so it will be a steep trek. Freshly energized after a good night's sleep and hearty breakfast, we ascend under the mighty and beautiful glacier scenery from the Großer Wiesbachhorn and Fuscherkarkopf to the Pfandscharte (2,665 m). From here there is a wonderful view of the Grossglockner. After soaking in the scenery, we have a short descent to the traditional Glocknerhaus at 2,132 m (7000 ft), our accommodation for tonight.

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: Strenuous/Technical

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight: [Glocknerhaus](#)



Day 5 – 28 June 2020



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 delicious lunch break, we descend to the Lucknerhaus (1,918 m), tonight's accommodation. From the Lucknerhaus we can once again admire the view of the Grossglockner, this time 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: Strenuous because of long descent/Some technical

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight: [Luckner House](#)



Day 6 – 29 June 2020



This morning we begin the day with a taxi transfer to Defereggental. Our journey takes us across the Villgraten mountains to St. Jakob where we reach the Mooseralm with a chairlift. From here we climb up to Ochsenlenke and hike past the Degenhornsee and on to the Arntaler Lenke. The descent takes us across the Arntal to Unterstalleralm where we continue by bus to Innervillgraten (1,403 m). Our stay tonight is at Gasthof Raiffeisen.

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

Route category: Strenuous because of long descent/Technical

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight: [Gasthof Raiffeisen](#)



Day 7 – 30 June 2020



The transition from the Innervillgrater Valley into the Pustertal takes us over the 2,663 m high Toblacher Pfannhorn. This vantage point provides a magnificent view of the Dolomites and back to the Grossglockner Group. From here we descend a bit to the Bonner hut (2,340 m) where we enjoy the local cuisine for lunch. The next stage continues the descent to the small hamlet of Kandellen (1,575 m). Afterwards we take the bus via Sexten to the Innerfeldtal and in just 30 minutes we arrive at our accommodation for the evening, 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: Strenuous/Technical

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight: [Drei-Schuster-Hütte](#)



Day 8 – July 1, 2020



The last ascent leads us through the picturesque Innerfeldtal Valley to Drei Zinnen Hütte (2,438 m). From here the view of the north walls of the famous Drei Zinnen is literally overwhelming. Approximately an hour after our lunch break, we reach the Auronzo hut where the view is again, amazing. A toast to the Dolomites is in order. It is so beautiful here it is hard to leave, but after a short walk—you'll want to walk slowly—we transfer via the Felbertauern Tunnel back to Berchtesgaden. Arrival about 19.00 clock. Our accommodations are again at Hotel Grünberger where we will reunite with the luggage they have been storing.

Walking time approx. 4 hours, ascent 950 m (3100 ft), descent 250 m (825 ft), length approx. 10.5 km
Route category: Moderately Strenuous/No Technical
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner



View from Auronzo Hut

Day 9 – 2 July 2020

After breakfast depart at your convenience to continue your travel independently.

Meals: Breakfast

Cost: \$2750.00 per person

Included: Expert guide service, on-site trip organizer, 2 nights in hotels and 6 nights in refugios, rental gear-ice spikes if required, chairlifts, cable car, 8 breakfasts, 7 dinners, 4 shuttles, 1 bus transport, 1 boat trip. Pre-trip training hikes in the Fresno area if you live close by, packing and gear guides.

Not Included: Lunches, one dinner (day of arrival), extra food and snacks during the day, drinks, airfare, transportation to/from Berchtesgaden, special transportation while on the trek if wanted or needed (apart from the included group transportation), personal hiking gear, trip insurance.

Additional costs:

According to personal needs in cash about € 40.- per day for drinks, backpack provisions, etc. A credit card payment is not possible in most of the huts, so Euros are required.

Our Alpentraversale Guide

Mathias Klebaur

»The mountains are balm for the soul«

Mathias (Thia) has been guiding hikers on some of the most beautiful and challenging trails in Europe for 25 years. He is a Certified Mountain and Ski Guide with an additional qualification as a canyoning guide, a member of the Mountain Rescue Hindelang, and a Region Instructor for Bergwacht Allgäu, the Mountain Rescue Service for the Allgäu region in the Bavarian Alps. Thia splits his time between his homes in Bad Hindelang, Germany and Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada where he is a heli-ski guide during the winter season for Canadian Mountain Holidays.

