

Cycling holiday in Salzkammergut



Highlights

Austria's Salzkammergut region, large regions of which have been collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a breathtaking mix of natural wonders, historical curiosities and architectural delights. What better way to explore this magical place than a six-day cycling tour?

The Salzkammergut region to the East of Salzburg, takes its name from the historical importance of the area's salt mines, which originally made the area prosperous. Known for its beautiful lakes and mountains, glacier-carved valleys, rolling meadows and pretty alpine villages the scenery is quite simply breath-taking. It is also a cyclists' paradise, offering hundreds of kilometres of trails woven with treats of the geological, architectural, historic and natural varieties.

This self-guided cycling holiday sees you exploring the region on two wheels at your own pace. Beginning in Ebensee, where you will be based for the first three days, you will explore local highlights such as Traunsee lake, home to a 'floating' castle, the beautiful village of Traunkirchen and, if you dare, take a dip in the clear, pure waters of Langbathsee! Then it's on to your new base in the village of Obertraun, from where you will visit the spa town of Bad Ischl, the pretty Lake Hallstatt and the famous Dachstein Mountain ice caves.

Is it for me?

The flexible, self-guided nature of these bicycle tours allows you to tailor them to your own requirements and abilities. Most routes are quiet tarmac or gravel tracks specifically dedicated to cyclists, and anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should have no problem covering the distance, given the aluminium framed, 27-gear cycles provided.

Daily routes vary from 20-40 km depending on individual preferences, and extra days can be added to the tours on request. Roadside assistance is also provided, so you can really leave your cares behind and enjoy the sights. Comfortable accommodation, ensuite facilities and friendly hosts mean this trip would also suit active families and those who appreciate a little home comfort at the journey's end.

Accommodation

You'll be staying at two different guesthouses during your holiday. The first, Haus Rosenhof, on the outskirts of the village of Ebensee, is a modern guesthouse built in the traditional Austrian style. Haus Hepi, Obertraun, your second home-from-home, is within walking distance of lake Hallstatt, nestled into the edge of the surrounding forest.

All guesthouses are run by English hosts, all have ensuite rooms, and all provide breakfast, packed lunch for each day's excursion, and cooked dinner and drinks in the evenings.

Itinerary

Day 1: Ebensee

Transfer from Salzburg airport to Haus Rosenhof, Ebensee, where you will be greeted by your hosts for the first three days, who will introduce you to the region and provide local information and maps. You will be fitted out with your bikes, then have the opportunity to explore the local area for yourselves.

Prices from

583 GBP (6 days) per person

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Day 2: Gmunden

Your journey will take you through the ancient lakeside village of Traunkirchen, past Schloss Ort, Traunsee's 'floating' castle, before arriving at the charming lakeside town of Gmunden. After exploring you return to Ebensee by boat. You can also take the boat both ways. 25Km

Day 3: Ebensee

A gentle ride following a mountain stream through woodland to the beautiful Lake of Langbathsee. You will have the chance to swim or relax before returning to Ebensee. 20Km

Day 4: Obertraun

Your route will take you into the spa town of Bad Ischl, where you can sample the benefits of the waters. Continue on to meet your new hosts in Obertraun alongside beautiful Lake Halstatt, either by train or bike. 45Km(max)

Day 5: Echerntal Valley

Spend a relaxing day in the village of Hallstatt, dating back 7,000 years. Visit the oldest salt mine in the world, or cycle up through the Echerntal valley to the Glacier Gardens, rock formations carved by glaciers. Alternatively, take a cable car in Obertraun to the Dachstein Mountain Ice Caves.

Day 6: Salzburg

After breakfast you will be returned to Salzburg airport.

Details**Getting there**

You need to get to Salzburg airport. There are direct flights from most major UK Airports.

Price includes

Airport transfer, all meals, en-suite accommodation, well-maintained bikes, helmets, day packs, luggage transfers, roadside assistance, local information and maps, child discounts.

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed