

# Walking Holiday in Austria



## Highlights

Wind your way along forested trails, through alpine meadows, past mountain lakes and through ancient villages, all cradled in broad, glacier-carved valleys beneath awe-inspiring peaks. Drink in the air and the views on six-day self-guided walking tours.

The Salzkammergut region takes its name from the historical importance of the area's salt mines, which have made the area prosperous until recent times. The Traun River basin, dappled with attendant lakes, is a walkers' paradise, offering hundreds of kilometres of trails through breathtaking scenery. Explore the Mammoth Cave network- 48km of which have been explored so far (hence the name!) or visit the Gletschergarten, a landscape where riverbeds were sliced across by glaciers in prehistory, leaving sheer waterfalls in their place.

Climb the imposing Feuerkogel mountain, at 1,625m, offering superb sweeping views of the surrounding scenery; take in a panoramic view of the lakes before descending again (by cable car if you wish!) to explore. Sample the historic brine spa baths at Bad Ischl, or tour the world's oldest salt mine, in the tiny village of Hallstatt, where archaeological evidence has been found of human habitation dating back to 5000 B.C! Take in the view from Krippenstein mountain, made even more vertiginous by the famous five fingers viewing platform, or experience a small slice of timelessness as the cattle are driven through the village of Obersdorf on their way to be milked! This self-guided walking tour allows you the freedom to choose your own pace and visit the sights that most inspire you.

## Is it for me?

The flexibility of this tour means it's suitable for just about anyone with a moderate level of fitness who enjoys walking. For more experienced hikers, and those eager to take in as many sights as possible, your hosts will be happy to suggest alternative or extended routes. Those content with a more leisurely pace, on the other hand, are sure to find the scenery breathtaking enough to fill their days to bursting! Also definitely suitable for families with active children!

## 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 the day's hiking, 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 then have the opportunity to explore the local area for yourselves.

Prices from

**488** GBP (6 days) per person

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#### Day 2: Rindbach Waterfall

A walk following the loggers' paths will take you up to the beautiful Rindbach waterfall. On route, crossing wooden bridges past mountain pools, you will witness spectacular views over the valley. You can choose to extend your walk by continuing on to lake Offensee. 15-30Km

#### Day 3: Feuerkogel Mountain

The Feuerkogel mountain is your destination today. Once you reach the plateau, either by forest tracks or cable car, you will be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views. There are numerous circular walks of varying lengths for you to choose from. 5-25Km

#### Day 4: Obertraun

You will join your next hosts in Obertraun. The route takes you into the Imperial spa town of Bad Ischl where you can spend time discovering culture, coffee & cakes or the therapeutic properties of the salt water spa. Continue on to Obertraun alongside the majestic Lake Hallstatt either by train or on foot. 10-25Km

#### Day 5: Lake Hallstatt

Take a boat trip across Lake Hallstatt to the historical village of Hallstatt. Visit the oldest salt mine in the world before continuing up the short climb through an ancient wooded valley. Heading back down to Hallstatt you will walk through the Gletschergarten (glacier garden): giant potholes, aqua marine rock pools and waterfalls carved by glaciers from the last ice age. 15-20km

#### 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, luggage transfers, 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