

Austrian Tyrol Rail Adventure

Tour Style: Rail Adventures

Destination: Austria

Trip code: TYLEL

1 & 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

For snow-capped peaks, glaciers, and waterfalls, Austria never fails to impress. We'll travel there by rail from London St Pancras and explore the scenic highlights of the Tyrol by train, tram, cable car, and boat. There'll be excursions to the Zugspitze to ascend Germany's highest mountain by cable car and to ride the cogwheel train from Jenbach to the turquoise waters of Lake Achen. But the real showstopper is reaching the highest point in Innsbruck on the Nordkette Cable car to breathe in invigorating mountain air and gaze out over pure Alpine scenery.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return rail travel from London
- Fully escorted travel from London with an HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Half-board accommodation
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- All in-destination transport

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Riding a cable up Germany's highest mountain, Zugspitze
- Taking the 'forest tram' from Innsbruck to Ambras Castle
- Journeying on the steam-operated rack and pinion railway to Lake Achen
- Taking the Nordkette cable car to Austria's largest nature park
- Soaking up the scenery from Seefeld to Innsbruck on the Karwendal railway
- Staying on the Seefeld Plateau in an adult-only spa hotel

ITINERARY

Day 1: LONDON TO COLOGNE

Meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager and fellow travellers at London St Pancras International railway station. After check-in, baggage checks, and passport control, we'll wait in the departure lounge for our train to Brussels.

Once we're there, we'll disembark the Eurostar and change to the high-speed service to the cathedral city of Cologne. Depending on which hotel we're staying in, there's either a short coach transfer or walk to our hotel, after which we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2: INNSBRUCK

After breakfast we'll make our way back to Cologne train station where we'll join the high-speed service to Munich. In Munich, we'll change trains and travel across the border into the Austrian Tyrol to Innsbruck. Once there, we'll transfer by coach to Hotel Kristall.

Day 3: INNSBRUCK AND INNSBRUCKER NORDKETTENBAHNEN

We'll take the public bus from Weidach Quellenhof to Seefeld where we'll hop aboard the scenic Karwendelbahn railway. On the journey to Innsbruck we'll encounter the Gurgelbach viaduct and spectacular views down into the Inntal valley.

Then we'll travel to the highest point above Innsbruck on three different cable railways. Catch the Hungerburgbahn funicular to Hungerburg Station, and transfer to the Seegrubebahn cable car, transporting us further up Seegrube at 1,905 m (6,250 ft). Finally, the Hafelekarbahn takes us to Innsbruck's highest viewpoint and Karwendel Nature Park. You can have coffee/early lunch at either the Seegrube Café or Hafelekar Restaurant, located at 2,256 metres.

You could also enjoy a short walk - the Seegrube Panorama Trail is an easy 25-minute walk, circling a small hill. And/or you can walk to the top of Innsbruck viewpoint, a 10 to 15-minute climb from Hafelekar station.

Once we descend into Innsbruck, you'll have free time to explore and sightsee.

Day 4: IGLS AND AMBRAS CASTLE

We'll take the train to Innsbruck and board the sightseeing hop-on hop-off bus to Bergisel and the start of tram line six, also known as the 'forest tram', from Innsbruck to Igls.

Enjoy fabulous views of the Nordkette mountains and Patscherkofel (2,246m above sea level) on the way. It was constructed in the 1900s, and tracks wind upwards for more than 280m through pine forest, past Ambras Castle, and up across verdant countryside to Igls.

We'll get off at Tummelplatz where a short walk will lead us to Ambras Castle. After exploring, we'll get back on the tram to Igls for an optional ride up the Patscherkofelbahn cable car to the top of the mountain. Bus

route J will take us back to central Innsbruck and our return journey on the train.

Day 5: FREE DAY

The day's yours to explore, relax, or sightsee as you wish. Near the hotel, there are three golf courses and a variety of bike and walking trails. Or you could head further afield to spend more time in Innsbruck.

Day 6: GARMISCH PARTENKIRCHEN & ZUGSPITZE

A coach will take us from the hotel to Zugspitzstation in Garmisch Partenkirchen where we'll catch the cogwheel train to Zugspitzplatt.

Here you have the chance to enjoy a short walk. You could head to the Karst cave (about 15 minutes), complete the Sonn-Alpin circuit (15-30 minutes) or cross the Zugspitze glacier to an observation deck overlooking Ehrwald (one hour). We'll have lunch at the Sonnalpin glacier restaurant before taking the glacier cable car to the summit of Zugspitze (weather permitting). We'll then descend to Garmisch Partenkirchen for our journey back.

Day 7: JENBACH STEAM TRAIN AND ACHENSEE

Today's unforgettable itinerary begins with a ride on the steam-powered rack and pinion railway to Achensee. The 128-year-old railway is the oldest of its kind in Europe, still carrying passengers to this day. Once we've disembarked from the train, it'll be on to the boat for a relaxing lake cruise.

Day 8: STUBAITAL RAILWAY – FULPMES – KREUZJOCH CABLE CAR

We'll get the train to Innsbruck where we'll board the StubaitalBahn tram for an hour-long journey of steep climbs and curves into scenic Stubai valley. At Fulpmes you'll have time to explore before ascending Kreuzjoch mountain (2,136m) by cable car. At the top, you have panoramic hiking trails and restaurants to enjoy. Return to Innsbruck by tram to catch our train connection to Seefeld.

Day 9: DEPARTURE DAY – OVERNIGHT IN COLOGNE

After breakfast we'll transfer by coach to Innsbruck to begin our journey home by rail. We'll make our way to Munich to join the high-speed train to Cologne. A short coach transfer will take us to our hotel before dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 10: COLOGNE TO LONDON

There's time in the morning for a short stroll before our coach transfer to Cologne railway station for our late morning train to Brussels. Here we change trains and check in for our Eurostar service to London.

ACCOMMODATION

Maritim Hotel, Cologne

Centrally located, the Maritim Hotel puts you within walking distance of Cologne's standout sights. At the hotel, you can enjoy the spa, indoor pool, sauna, steam room, and three restaurants. The en-suite rooms are modern – some with a city view – and are fitted with TV, kettle, and fridge.

Marriott Hotel, Cologne

It's a short walk to the train station from the Cologne Marriott Hotel. This stylish hotel is all about comfort with soundproofed rooms, some of which have city views, others look into the inner courtyard. There's a modern

gym on site plus a bar and restaurant with cosy seating area.

Hotel Kristall, Leutasch

With a focus on wellbeing and nature, the adults-only Hotel Kristall is comfort at its best. Located on the Seefeld plateau, you'll have views towards the Karwendel Mountains from all angles, but they're especially spectacular from the panoramic mountain sauna and rooftop infinity pool. A nature retreat at heart, the hotel recently underwent a complete renovation providing sophisticated, modern, and luxurious accommodation in the heart of Tyrol.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions

The Hassle-Free Option

Book your holiday 'with rail' and travel on Eurostar and by onward rail with Deutsche Bahn with the group. If you choose this option, we automatically include return transfers between Innsbruck station and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx. 1 hour.

Notes For Rail Travellers

Rail travel will be from St Pancras International Station, London to Innsbruck, Tyrol via Brussels, Cologne, and Munich. Your group meeting point at St Pancras will be the Sir John Betjeman statue on the upper level of the station 2 hours before departure time. Here you will join the rest of your group and meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager who will guide you throughout your journey, including your overnight stay in Cologne. You will then make your way to the ticket gate as a group. A suitcase with wheels is strongly recommended as you will be responsible for carrying and lifting your luggage on all parts of the journey.

All luggage will be scanned at the departure gate and needs to be clearly labelled. You are responsible for your luggage and belongings at all stages of your journey so it's advisable to have it within eyesight when travelling on trains and be extra vigilant when moving through busy railway stations. Please refer to the website below for the latest information on luggage requirements for your journey and trip information:

<https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en>

Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone

- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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