

Walking in the Austrian Lake District

Tour Style: European walking holidays

Destination: Austria

Trip code: SKLCL

3 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Adored for its staggeringly beautiful alpine scenery, the UNESCO-listed Salzkammergut region is also known as Austria's Lake District. It offers wonderful walks through mountain foothills and along woodland trails, all set against a backdrop of snow-covered peaks and crystalline lakes. Perfect for those wanting to combine walking with visits to some of the region's cultural and historic highlights, this exceptional holiday includes visiting the spa town of Bad Ischl, riding the cable car up Katrin Alp, and walking alongside Lake Halstatt. You'll also have a free day to explore the striking city of Salzburg or the rustic market town of St Wolfgang.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Gatwick, including baggage and transfers
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' accommodation in Bad Goisern
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- In-destination transport using local public services

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discovering the Salzkammergut region, a designated 2024 European Capital of Culture
- Admiring crisp alpine peaks and glittering lakes
- Visiting the spa town of Bad Ischl and riding the cable car up Katrin Alp
- Walking the Traun Trail and alongside beautiful Lake Halstatt
- Taking the Krippenstein cable car for a trail overlooking the Dachstein plateau
- Staying at a charming hotel in the market town of Bad Goisern

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival And Transfer From Salzburg To Bad Goisern

Upon arrival in Salzburg, you'll be transferred to the picturesque town of Bad Goisern, nestled in the heart of the Austrian Alps. Take some time to settle into your accommodation before a welcome meeting with your local guide that will focus on the adventure ahead.

Day 2: Katrin Alps & Seven Lakes View

Option 1 - Bad Ischl To Katrin Summit

Distance: 3.1 miles (5 km)

Total Ascent: 1,436 feet (437m)

Total Descent: 1,469 feet (448m)

Our first full day begins with a local train ride to Bad Ischl, followed by a short stroll to the valley station of the Katrin cable car. The cable car takes us up to the nature reserve where we'll walk along the southern slope, requiring surefootedness due to the steep path. The return route is via the Elferkogel and the Katrin summit.

Option 2 - Elferkogel & Serpentine Trail

Distance: 5.3 miles (8.5 km)

Total Ascent: 2,370 feet (722m)

Total Descent: 2,355 feet (718m)

This walk follows the same initial route as Option 1. However, instead of heading uphill, this route descends from the Katrin mountain station and ascends back along the former ski slope. From here, we head along the southern slope slightly uphill in the direction of Hainzen. The initially wide path soon turns into a steep path which we follow back via the Elferkogel, the Katrin summit and via the serpentines down to the mountain station.

Day 3: Traun River Trails

Option 1 - Mount Salzberg & World Heritage Viewpoint

Distance: 7.8 miles (12.5 km)

Total Ascent: 1,486 feet (453m)

Total Descent: 1,060 feet (323m)

Departing directly from our hotel in Bad Goisern, we'll follow the River Traun as it winds its way towards Untersee. The trail leads us through meadows and forests, ending at the Hallstatt train station. From here, we'll take the ferry to the centre of Hallstatt and return to Bad Goisern by local bus.

Option 2 - Koppentraun River To Lake Hallstatt

Distance: 13.7 miles (22 km)

Total Ascent: 660 feet (201m)

Total Descent: 1,076 feet (328m)

Our longer walk begins with a local train ride from Bad Goisern to Bad Aussee. The route leads along the Koppentraun River to Obertraun, following the east bank trail to Lake Hallstatt. The return journey is by train from Steeg to Bad Goisern.

Day 4: Dachstein Mountains

Option 1 - Krippenstein, Hirzkarsee & Gjaid Alm

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Total Ascent: 197 feet (60m)

Total Descent: 1,066 feet (325m)

Day four of our trip takes us through the spectacular Dachstein Mountains on a popular circular trail at over 2000 m altitude. Leaving Bad Goisern we'll take the bus to the valley station in Obertraun (510 m). We'll ride the Dachstein Krippenstein cable car to over 1,600 metres in altitude and overlook the incredibly wide Dachstein plateau.

From Krippenstein (2,100 m), a well-maintained path leads over hilly terrain to the Dachstein Shark, an impressive 8m long sculpture piece. Climb inside and admire the beautiful landscape through its mouth – a unique perspective. We'll continue to Heilbronner Cross, past the Hirzkarsee to Krippeneck, before a short path takes us to the sunny terrace of the Gjaid Alm. We'll return to the valley via cable car.

Option 2 - Krippenstein & UNESCO World Heritage Landscapes

Distance: 6.2 miles (10 km)

Total Ascent: 801 feet (244m)

Total Descent: 801 feet (244m)

This walk will lead us through the magnificent landscape of the Dachstein/Hallstatt-Salzkammergut region which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After the ascent with the Krippenstein cable car, we'll walk along a wide path to the nearby Gjaidalm (1,738 m). We'll pick up our trail here and head in a south-westerly direction across the karst terrain, on through the Bärengasse to the Wiesberghaus, before returning and descending again via the Krippenstein cable car.

Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around the hotel, walk independently, or visit local places of interest. Options include:

Bad Ischl

Just 15 minutes by train from our accommodation sits the spa town of Bad Ischl. Rich in salt mining history, it

was once the favourite holiday hotspot for the rulers of the Hapsburg Empire. Visit the summer home of Emperor Franz Joseph I with a trip to the Imperial Villa, stroll down the shop-lined Pfargasse, or savour delicious Austrian treats at the Zauner Café and Cake Shop.

Salzburg

Salzburg is the historic Austrian city best known as the birthplace of Mozart and the shooting location for The Sound of Music. This spectacular city is dominated by castles, churches, and palaces. Among its most visited sites are the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the Mozart museums, the Getreidegasse, and the Hellbrunn Palace. You can get there by train and bus in approximately 1.5 hours from Bad Goisern.

Strobl on Lake Wolfgang

Less than 40 minutes away, Strobl is the departure point for boat rides across Lake Wolfgang to St Wolfgang where you can have a coffee break at the famous Café Weisses Rössl. Alternatively, take the cogwheel railway up to Mount Schafberg and try one of the many walking routes.

Day 6: Lake Nussen & Bad Ischl

Option 1 - Pfandl, Ramsau & Lake Nussen

Distance: 9.6 miles (15.5 km)

Total Ascent: 984 feet (300m)

Total Descent: 984 feet (300m)

After catching the train to Bad Ischl, we'll walk along the River Traun to Pfandl. The trail leads to the charming hamlet of Ramsau, then towards Lake Nussen, passing the remarkable ruins of Wildenstein Castle to reach the centre of Bad Ischl.

Option 2 - The Brine Trail

Distance: 13.7 miles (22 km)

Total Ascent: 1,555 feet (474m)

Total Descent: 1,489 feet (454m)

This hike follows the same initial route as Option 1, but instead of heading towards Lake Nussen, it joins the historic Brine Trail, leading back to Bad Goisern via the Traunreiterweg. After reaching the hamlet of Ramsau, we'll follow the signs to Lake Nussen and walk around a mountain lake before passing the Wildenstein ruins. We'll then join the Brine Trail, walking through forests and fields and along the Traunreiter Trail to Bad Goisern.

Day 7: Legendary Trails & Valleys

Option 1 - Traunreiter Trail To Jochwand

Distance: 10.6 miles (17 km)

Total Ascent: 1,204 feet (367m)

Total Descent: 1,204 feet (367m)

Leaving the hotel, we'll follow the River Traun towards Weissenbach along the Traunreiter Trail. The walk continues through a light-filled forest of beech trees to the Jochwand, offering beautiful views over the valley of Bad Goisern to Lake Hallstatt and the surrounding mountains.

Option 2 - Ewige Wand Trail

Distance: 6.8 miles (11 km)

Total Ascent: 2,165 feet (660m)

Total Descent: 2,165 feet (660m)

The longer option starts from Bad Goisern and walks via Feuerbachgasse and Höllgraben to Rathluckenhütte. From here, a legendary trail leads us to the Ewige Wand, an impressive path blasted out of the rock, offering spectacular views across the valley to the Dachstein.

Day 8: Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Goisererhof, Bad Goisern

Located in the heart of the Austrian market town of Bad Goisern, the three-star Hotel Goisererhof has been welcoming guests since 1870. There's a warm and inviting reception area and comfortable en-suite guest rooms that provide all the modern luxuries you could ever need for a relaxing stay. You'll also find a restaurant serving regional and international cuisine as well as a spa area with a sauna, herbal steam bath, and relaxation room. Free Wi-Fi is available in the lounge and restaurant.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport. Please note that we are unable to offer our shared transfer service to guests taking independent flights.

Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

*Subject to availability

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

Useful Information

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please

see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:
<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

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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