



HIKING THE EUROPEAN ALPS ON THE E5

TOUR ALPS

This expertly guided hiking trip features the most spectacular part of Europe's most famous long distance hike, the E5. You cross the Alps in 9 days through 6 valleys and 3 countries from picturesque Oberstdorf in Bavaria, Germany across the mighty and partly glaciated mountains of Tyrol in Austria to the Mediterranean town of Merano in Italy. Overnights are not in huts, but real hotels with double, twin or single rooms with private bathrooms.

Demands:

The E5 is a challenging trail with 5-6 hours of daily hiking time. However, transportation of luggage is provided, you only have to carry our daypack. The trail from Oberstdorf, Germany, to Merano, Italy is 68 miles (110 km) long with some 19700 ft (6000 m) of elevation gain.

Included:

- ✓ Train tickets from Munich to Oy-Mittelberg and return
- ✓ 9 nights in typical guesthouses or hotels, some with sauna, pool or steam room
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner throughout the trip from dinner day 1 to dinner day 9
- ✓ Transportation of luggage between accommodations
- ✓ Safe storage of not needed luggage
- ✓ Ground transportation with trains, buses or taxis as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Fees for all gondolas as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Admission for Neuschwanstein Castle, with English guided tour
- ✓ Admission for Museum in Bozen with English guided tour
- ✓ Qualified and experienced English-speaking mountain guide throughout the hiking tour

Not included: flights, lunches (can be bought at mountain huts along the way), alcohol, light day pack, personal equipment, tips (70 to 100 € per person recommended).

Schedule 2017:

June 23 - July 02
 July 06 - July 15
 Aug. 31 - Sep. 09



AUTHENTIC ALPINE HOTELS AND GUESTHOUSE

VISIT OF THE DISNEY CASTLE NEUSCHWANSTEIN BEFORE THE TRANSALP HIKE.

CULINARY TREATS OF BAVARIA, TYROL. AUSTRIA AND SOUTH TYROL, ITALY.

TRANSPORTATION OF LUGGAGE BETWEEN ACCOMMODATIONS. YOU HIKE WITH A LIGHT PACK.

VISIT OF "FROZEN FRITZ" THE FAMOUS 5000 YEAR OLD ICE MUMMY IN A SPECTACULAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Length of tour: 10 days

Group size: 6 to 9 persons with 1 guide
 10 to 16 persons with 2 guides

PRICE: CDN\$ 2695.00 in double rooms
 CDN\$ 2935.00 in single rooms

Prices include taxes.

Day 1: Oy-Mittelberg, Bavaria, Germany - A two hour train ride from the Munich main station to the beautiful village of Oy-Mittelberg, where you stay in the charming Krone guesthouse or Rose guesthouse. Depending on arrival time, there is time to discover this idyllic and quiet place, before enjoying the first Bavarian dinner together with your group. (D)

Day 2: Oy-Mittelberg - After breakfast a 30 minute drive to Hohenschwangau, one of Germany's best known medieval towns at the edge of the Alps. Here Bavarian King Ludwig II built his dream castle, Neuschwanstein, a fairytale castle and Germany's number one tourist attraction. You hike up to the Chateau (40 minutes) and join an English guided tour of the castle. Then you continue hiking up to Mount Tegelberg for a lunch with the majestic view over the area. The gondola takes you down the mountains and if time allows there is stop in the medieval town of Füssen.

Towards the evening you transfer back to Oy-Mittelberg. After dinner the guide rechecks the equipment with updates about the current weather and trail conditions. Luggage which you do not need for the alpine crossing can stay in safe storage. You spend a second night in this unique place where cows have the right of way each day when coming home for milking and where church bells are the only noise to be heard at night. (B, D)
Hiking time: 4 hrs. elevation gain/drop: ↑ 900 m (2950 ft), ↓ 900 (2950 ft)

Day 3: Bschlabs, Austria - Time to start the adventure! After a rich Bavarian breakfast you board your bus for the 50 minute ride to Oberstdorf, Germany's most southerly winter sport resort. The guided hike on the E5 starts at about 10 a.m. with an 850 m ascent to the Kemptner hut at 1.844 m (6050 ft). This is a large mountain accommodation, perfectly situated for climbs in the immediate area. After lunch you continue our hike up to a ridge which is also the border to Austria. Descent to the wild Lech Valley in Tyrol, Overnight at the cozy "Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit" in the very small and idyllic village of Bschlabs. (B,D.)
Hiking time: 6 hrs. ↑ 850 m (2790 ft), ↓ 850 m (2790 ft)

Day 4: Zams, Austria - You start from your guesthouse and hike up to the Anhalter hut, one of the many Alpine Club huts of Germany or Austria. After a rustic lunch you continue up to the Steinjöchle before descending to the road where the bus is waiting. Short transfer to Zams and the 800 year old Guesthouse Gemse (Chamoix). (B,D) Hiking time: 5 hrs. ↑ 890 m (2920 ft), ↓ 500 m (1540 ft)

Day 5: Wenns, Austria – The gondola takes you up the Venetberg to gain 1400 meters altitude. Now you follow the ridge which crosses several summits. The trail is above tree line all day with stunning views and some relaxed alpine hiking without any drastic ascents. After lunch at the Larcher Alm you arrive at the Pitztal Valley with some time this afternoon to relax in the village of Wenns, do a little shopping or use the Sauna of the Pitztaler Hof. (B,D). Hiking time: 4.5 hrs. ↑ 280 m (920 ft), ↓ 1.550 m (5085 ft)

Day 6: Zwieselstein, Tyrol, Austria - The bus takes you to the very end of the Pitztal valley. You follow the trail past a waterfall and soon have stunning views of hanging glaciers clinging to the steep walls. You reach the Braunschweiger hut (2.759 m, 9052 ft) just in time for a hearty lunch. Now you walk up to the Pitztaler Jöchle (2.996 m, 9829 ft) where you scramble across some rocks and have a good chance of spotting "Steinböcke", similar to mountain sheep, but with long horns and not shy at all. You traverse some snow and then the bus takes you to Zwieselstein where the first alpine skiing race is being held every year. The Hotel Post is home for tonight. Pool and Sauna available at no cost. (B,D).
Hiking time: 5.5 hrs. ↑ 1.100 m (3610 ft), ↓ 350 m (1150 ft)

Day 7: Platt, South Tyrol, Italy - A short bus transfer close to the alpine pass Timmelsjoch (2.600 m, 8530 ft). You hike up to the summit which is also the border to Italy and follow old smuggler path down to the small village of Moos. A shuttle takes you to a unique place for your first Italian lunch, the Sandwirt restaurant, former home of Andreas Hofer, the beloved local hero who led the Tyrolians against Napoleons French and Bavarian troops in a cruel war at the end of the 18th century. On to the Passeier Valley and the rustic but cosy Gasthof Plattenwirt. (B, D) Hiking time: 5 hrs. ↑ 700 m (3610 ft), ↓ 1.200 m (3935 ft)

Day 8: Merano, Italy - The last day of this guided hiking tour starts with an ascent to the Pfandler Alm. Famous again for Andreas Hofer, who was found by Napoleon hiding here and brought to Mantua for execution. After a nice rest a steep trail through forest then across beautiful alpine meadows with flowers and many "Almen" (where cows feast on the rich grass to produce the best milk) to the Hinteregg Alm (1.990 m, 6230 ft). From there you have a spectacular view to the Ortler (3.890 m, 12760 ft), highest peak in the Eastern Alps. After another 1.5 hours you reach the gondola for the ride down to Merano. Congratulations, you crossed the Alps and can enjoy the sights of beautiful medieval Merano. Dinner in the nicely located downtown Hotel Europa. (B,D). Hiking time: 5 hrs. ↑ 1.200 m (3935 ft), ↓ 0 m

Day 9: Oy-Mittelberg, Bavaria, Germany - After breakfast the bus takes you to Bozen for a visit of the South Tyrol Museum of Archeology where the Iceman is resting in his cold surroundings. A stroll and window shopping in charming Bozen before the drive back to Oy-Mittelberg in Bavaria for a farewell dinner in typical Bavarian style. Pick up all gear which you did not take along for the hiking trip in the mountains. (B,D)

Day 10: Munich, Germany - The train takes you back to downtown Munich for your flight home or extended stay in this vibrant city with its many attractions.

Important: Please be aware, that the route, accommodation and services are subject to changes due to weather or other unforeseen events which might occur during a high elevation, long distance alpine crossing.