

EXPLORE!

Self-Guided Walking the Salzkammergut Lakes
8 days

Austria - Trip code WSAS



Self-Guided Walking the Salzkammergut Lakes

On this self-guided walking holiday explore the picturesque Salzkammergut Lake District. Walk from the unspoiled Lake Schwarzensee to Lake Attersee - Austria's largest Lake. Hike among Alpine pastures, high plateaux and summit some of the region's most spectacular peaks. Stay in traditional Alpine villages and market towns. Austria's Lake District is the perfect setting for a rich hiking experience.

Trip highlights

- ★ Magnificent lake and mountain scenery - Austria's Lake District
- ★ Unterach and Bad Goisern - Beautiful Austrian villages and market towns
- ★ Mouth watering food and drink - From Apple strudel to Zirbenschknaps -made from pine cones.

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:

Moderate To Challenging

Combining moderate grade walks with some more strenuous hikes. This grade is ideal if you are fit and want to challenge yourself with a few longer, more demanding trekking days, possibly on difficult terrain or at higher altitudes.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Trip starts in Bad Ischl

The holiday starts in the charming village and ancient resort of Bad Ischl. On arrival you can take a wander through the streets of this Spa town, do a little shopping or enjoy a coffee and apple strudel in one of the many cafes.



Accommodation: Gasthof Sandwirt (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Walk from Bad Ischl along the Elisabeth Forest Trail to Lake Attersee

Today's walk starts from your hotel in Bad Ischl; walk past the church and along the Ischl River. Cross the forest on the beautiful Elisabeth Forest Trail. Ascend to Lake Schwarzensee (715m). In the summer, when the sun has warmed up the water, you may wish to take a dip in the clear waters. You reach the town of Moosbach, where you can stop for refreshments at one of the charming cafes. From here there is a steep ascent of the gorge, then descending to Attersee Lake. Walk along the shore to Unterach where you spend the night.

Today's 21.5km walk is expected to take between 7 hours and you will ascend 450m and descend 410m. There is the option to shorten the walk by 7km if you take the bus part of the way.



Accommodation: Hotel Post Weissenbach (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 3 - Walk to mountain refuge and pastures, then on to Wolfgangsee Lake

Today starts with a climb in the shadow of the Schafberg (1783m), start by following a series of hair pin bends which continue to cross mountain pastures up to the Buchberghütte refuge where you can refuel on some regional food and drinks. The path continues towards Scharfling, and then descends to the Krottensee Lake, where you can take a refreshing dip in the water. From here you hike towards the shores of the Wolfgangsee Lake, then up to the town of Abersee where you spend the night.

Today's 14km walk is expected to take about 6 hours and you will ascend 650m and descend 550m. There is the option to shorten the walk by taking a bus part of the way.



Accommodation: Hotel Carossa (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 4 - Short walk to Strobl (or take boat), optional hike to alpine pastures

You can spend the day soaking up the atmosphere and beautiful surroundings of Wolfgangsee Lake, one of the best known in the Salzkammergut region, with an easy short 4km lakeside walk to Strobl. Those wanting it easier can take a ferry! For those keen to stretch their legs there is the option to walk to the Postalm Alpine Pasture, the largest in Austria and one of the highest in Europe.

The Wolfgangsee stretches 10km and is surrounded by the Salzkammergut mountain range. You could take the cable car to the top of Schafberg where you can admire the panoramic views before walking to Strobl. For the energetic, you can hike up between the summits of Sparber (1502m) and of Bleckwand (1541m) to the Postalm Alpine Pasture. You may have the chance to catch a glimpse of a red or a roe deer that make their home here. Here you can stop off in one of the shepherds' huts to taste milk, cheese and bacon. Next descend back to Strobl along the Weissenbach stream where you spend the night.

Today's walk is 4 kms with an addition optional 14km walk, and is expected to take about 1 hour and 6 hours respectively, you will ascend 950m and descend 250m. There is the option to shorten the walk by returning by bus from the pastures.



Accommodation: Gasthof Kleefeld (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 5 - Walk from Strobl to Bad Goisern

Starting from Strobl, it's not long before you find a path called the Bear Track. This is an old path leading to a pass at 1333m. There is a great panorama from here and also an optional ascent to the top of a nearby peak (1414m). This is not a well-trodden route and has very steep drops making it unsuitable for vertigo sufferers. You then descend the wide valleys and walk towards Hallstättersee Lake following streams and gorges to the attractive market town of Bad Goisern where you spend the night. The wooden village with flowered window boxes, on the lake shore, framed by the mountains makes it one of the most picturesque in the region.

Today's 19km walk is expected to take about 8 hours and you will ascend 840m and descend 970m. There is the option to shorten the walk by taking a bus or train part of the way.



Accommodation: Landhotel Agathawirt (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 6 - Walk from Bad Goisern to Bad Aussee

Hike towards Hallstatt on the E4 route, one of a network of 11 long distance paths across Europe offering marvelous views of the remarkable village of Hallstatt, jewel of the Salzkammergut region. Take the time to explore Hallstatt with its 16th century Alpine houses and alleyways, home to cafes and shops, before beginning your walk. You follow the lake banks and walk through the narrow valley of Koppental, up to Bad Aussee on the confluence of three rivers.

Today's 25km walk is expected to take about 7 hours and you will ascend 445m and descend 425m. There is the option to shorten the walk by taking the bus part way.



Accommodation: Gasthof Staud'nwirt (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 7 - Walk from Bad Aussee to Bad Ischl

Your final day walking takes you to the spa town of Altaussee nestled on the shores of a lake. From here you start climbing up to the Blaa Alm pasture. Then, you follow the Rettenbach gorges then a good forest track leads you back to Bad Ischl where you spend the night.

Today's 20km walk is expected to take about 7 hours and you will ascend 700m and descend 600m. There is the option to shorten the walk by taking the morning bus from Bad Aussee to Altaussee.



Accommodation: Gasthof Sandwirt (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 8 - Trip ends Bad Ischl

After breakfast, the organised part of your holiday comes to an end.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

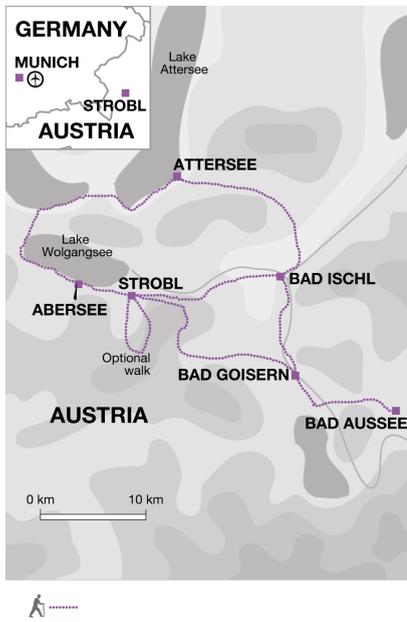
WSAS Distance Chart

Walking grade

Moderate to challenging

Trek details

On this journey you walk 113.5km over 6 days (an average of 19km a day) with an optional 14km day. There are long walking routes of 6 to 8 hours, some with tough ascents or descents, with a maximum ascent of 950m on one day. There are options to shorten the routes by using local buses. We have graded this trip as moderate to challenging.



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Dinner: 7



Transport

On Foot



Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Austria

Climate

Austria has a variable climate with frequent changes of weather from day to day. Expect a contrast of warm summer days with the possibility of showers at any time.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Roman Catholic

Language

German

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Take light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. July and August are the hottest months whilst early and late in the season go prepared with clothing to suit drops in temperature and possible showers. Light rainwear may be needed at any time of year, and a warm fleece/jacket is recommended for cooler evenings and nights.

Footwear

Walking boots or shoes and comfortable trainers and/or sandals for sightseeing and relaxing.

Luggage

18Kg

Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage if using public transport so don't overload yourself. Luggage transfers between hotels are normally arranged by the hoteliers. Please note luggage transfers are restricted to 15 kg per person, any additional weight will need to be packed in your day bag. Mark your bags clearly and leave them at the place and time arranged with them. When travelling on public transport you should always take your luggage with you.

Luggage transfer

Included between hotels.

Equipment

Insect repellent, sunglasses, walking poles, sunscreen and a water bottle are all recommended.

Maps - Along with the destination manual and route notes you will be sent a map which has the route marked on it.

Tipping

Local fees

There are no local fees for this holiday.

Country Information

Austria

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£27

Beer price

£2.85

Water price

£1.8

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Euro

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP, USD and Euros cash are accepted at exchange offices and banks.

Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

ATM Availability

All main towns and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are widely accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques can be changed in main banks.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

On Foot

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard - Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Austria: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you

will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom. Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Austria

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.
