

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

Bavaria & the Tyrol

A Guided Walking Adventure





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Travel Style

This small-group Guided Walking Adventure offers an authentic travel experience, one that takes you away from the crowds and deep in to the fabric of local life. On it, you'll enjoy 24/7 expert guides, premium accommodations, delicious meals, effortless transportation, and local wine or beer with dinner. Rest assured that every trip detail has been anticipated so you're free to enjoy an adventure that exceeds your expectations.

And, with our **optional Flight + Tour Combo, Munich Pre-Tour Extension and Salzburg Post-Tour Extension** to complement this destination, we take care of all the travel to simplify the journey. Refer to the attached itinerary for more details.



Overview

As the song goes, “The hills are alive with the sound of music.” Such is the inspiration that walkers experience in the majestic mountains and tranquil valleys of Germany’s Bavaria and the Austrian Tyrol, the same landscape that inspired the von Trapp family to sing. Your adventure on foot leads up gradual ascents and steeper slopes via gondola, to alpine trails, forest paths, and wildflower meadows. You encounter spectacular natural phenomena in dramatic settings—the Stubai Glacier, cascading waterfalls, impeccably preserved villages, and working alpine farmlands. Storybook castles and centuries-old churches mark your route, reminders of the rich 19th-century reign of Bavaria’s “mad” King Ludwig II.

This tour of natural grandeur is complemented by visits to the famous cultural centers of Innsbruck and Salzburg. In many towns you have the opportunity to explore art treasures, or, in the ebb of a leisurely afternoon, relax at a sidewalk café by indulging in one of the region’s customary pleasures of an afternoon beer or *Kaffee mit Kuchen* (coffee with cake). Your exploration of this region offers a perfect balance between rural and city life, natural beauty and cultural encounters. In the evenings, your lodgings in Bavaria and the Austrian Tyrol envelop you in the splendor of the region, offering you fine amenities and stunning views.



Daily Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival in Munich. Transfer to southern Bavaria. Linderhof Castle and Ettal Abbey visits. Mittenwald guided tour; 2-3 miles, easy

You meet your guides in Munich and drive an hour south out of the valley and into the Ammergau Alps, home to two of King Ludwig's famous fairytale castles. The first stop is Schloss Linderhof, Ludwig's only fully completed castle, built in homage to Louis XIV. Here you tour the manmade Venus Grotto (inspired by a scene from a Wagner opera), the interior, and the extensive gardens. Nearby you stop at the Ettal Monastery, one of the largest Benedictine communities in the world, originally founded in 1330. Re-built in the 18th century, its domed interior contains exuberant Baroque frescoes and decor.

Following lunch, just over an hour's drive takes you to the outskirts of Mittenwald, a charming Bavarian village nestled in the German Alps and your home for one night. From the outskirts of the village, you descend into town on foot, your view framed by the mountain backdrop of the Karwendel massif. Described in 1786 by the German writer Goethe as a "living picture book," Mittenwald features narrow lanes leading into the historic town center with its elegant shops, open-air cafés, homes adorned with overhanging eaves, flowering balconies, and *Liiflmalerei*. While most of these elaborate frescoes are based on

biblical themes, others recount the rich history of the area and portray the peaceful everyday life of mountain folk. At the heart of town stands the 18th-century parish church, one of the finest churches in the Bavarian Alps. Just outside the church is a memorial to Matthias Klotz, who introduced violin making to Mittenwald in 1684, making the town one of the world's most important centers of this highly specialized craft.



Arriving at your hotel, a former post office along the town's main pedestrian street, there is time to unpack and relax before gathering for a welcome cocktail and orientation meeting, followed by a dinner of regional specialties at the hotel.

Post Hotel, Mittenwald, Germany

A former post office dating to 1632, this charming Bavarian-style chalet hotel offers two restaurants, a sun terrace, an indoor swimming pool, and Finnish sauna. Located on the main pedestrian street of Mittenwald, it is within walking distance of the town's many shops, restaurants, and cafés.

DAY 2

Mittenwald to Elmau; 5 miles, easy. Elmau to Klais; 4 miles, easy. Transfer to Neustift

Following a buffet breakfast, you set off on foot for the day's walk into the neighboring Elmau Valley. Strolling past the picturesque homes of Mittenwald, you soon arrive at the outskirts of town and begin a gentle yet steady ascent through the woods alongside the Laintal Creek and past small waterfalls. The narrow trail soon opens up to a wider, packed gravel track and the Elmau Valley. Stretched between the Wetterstein and Karwendel mountains, this scenic valley is lined with pristine timber forests, wildflower meadows, brooks, and lakes.

You break for lunch at the historic Ferchensee Inn, a family-owned institution for over 85 years. Seated on the outdoor terrace overlooking Lake Ferchensee (weather permitting), you may choose from a number of local specialties—perhaps a dish of delicious homemade dumplings or freshly caught trout.



This afternoon, you continue on a trail that passes the Elmau and Kranzback castles, ending in the enchanting village of Klais. Arriving at a cozy café, you are welcomed by our friends and bakers, Claudia and Wilfried, onto the panoramic terrace for a *Kaffee mit Kuchen* break (coffee and cake). (Should you choose not to participate in the afternoon walk, you may transfer by bus directly to the

café to relax and wait for the rest of the group.) In the late afternoon, a 1½-hour drive delivers you across the border into Austria, where you venture south into the broad Stubaital Valley, home to craggy mountain peaks and the mighty Stubai glacier. The drive through the Stubaital takes you past tranquil farm meadows, mountain slopes forested with larch and pine, thundering waterfalls, and the traditional Tyrolean villages of Schönberg, Mieders, Telfes, Fulpmes, and Neustift. You arrive at your hotel, a lovely Tyrolean property located just on the outskirts of Neustift, with ample time to relax before reuniting for dinner at your hotel's cozy restaurant.

Alpenhotel Tirolerhof, Neustift, Austria

A seven-minute walk from the town center, this elegant Tyrolean family hotel features a warm and inviting interior, all modern amenities, restaurant and bar, an outdoor swimming pool, and extensive spa area with numerous saunas, steam baths, lounge areas, and massage facilities.

DAY 3

Stubai Glacier Walk (optional and weather permitting); 1 hour, moderate, 1,000-ft. elevation loss. Neustift countryside; 2-4 miles, easy

The morning's option, following breakfast, will be determined by your guide on the basis of the day's weather conditions. One choice would be a short transfer to the end of the valley to reach the Stubai Glacier. Tremendous views are of the Ötztal mountains (including the second-highest peak in Austria), the Stubaier Alpen, and the Dolomites. Based on local conditions, you are met by a local glacier guide and begin the descent on ice to the mid-station (crampons are provided). For those not inclined to participate in the glacier walk, there is an option to return to the base.

Lunch is a short drive away down the valley at an inviting traditional Tyrolean *alm* (a working farm that provides meals for hikers), where an array of typical sausages and cheeses are laid out, as well as soup with dumplings and a thick berry pancake for dessert. Afterwards, you may decide to continue straight to your hotel in Neustift to enjoy the spa facilities or to explore the streets and specialty shops of the town on your own. Alternatively, the afternoon walking option begins on the outskirts of town, passing by centuries-old working farms and mountain peaks, and arrives into Neustift by midafternoon. A short walk around this classic ski and hiker's village concludes with a visit to its remarkable Baroque parish church. Tyrol's second-largest church outside of Innsbruck, its rich interior is decorated with frescoes by well-known masters, and ornate metal headstones grace its graveyard.

Dinner this evening is on your own; you may choose from a range of restaurants offering Tyrolean specialties or international dishes, all a short walk from the hotel.

Alpenhotel Tirolerhof, Neustift, Austria

DAY 4

Pinnis Valley and Besinnungsweg trail; 4-6 miles, moderate, 1,600-ft. elevation loss. Additional option of 1.5 miles, moderate to challenging. Evening Innsbruck guided city tour; 1-2 miles, easy

Breaking from routine, you leave the hotel without breakfast and drive 20 minutes to the Karalm (a traditional *alm*) for a hearty country breakfast of eggs, cheeses, sausages, and homemade jams and honey served by your hosts, Maria and Armin. Situated on a high plateau in one of the most beautiful side valleys of the Stubai valley—the Pinnis Valley—the Karalm sits in the highest pastureland at the foot of the mountain massif of the Habicht or “Hawk Mountain” (10,750 feet), the highest in the eastern Stubai region.

From the Karalm (at an elevation of 5,730 feet), you begin a gentle descent of the Pinnis Valley, surrounded by a panorama of craggy peaks, alpine vistas, and, along the smooth path, wildflowers such as Bavarian gentian and bluebells. With luck, a golden eagle may pass overhead or you may spot mountain goats and marmots. Continuing on, you arrive for lunch at the stunningly situated Issenangeralm at about 4,500 feet, with breathtaking views from the terrace, and a wide-ranging menu of Tyrolean traditional food, including fresh trout.



Afterward, from the inn, you continue along the wooded *Besinnungsweg* (“Trail of Reflection”)—as its name implies, a meditation trail with a series of benches, carvings, and boards inviting visitors to take a seat, breathe, and enjoy the beautiful views. Short (1½-hour) and long (2½-hour) options are offered, both terminating in Neder, on the outskirts of Neustift, where a transfer is provided

back to the hotel.

This evening, after some time to relax back at your hotel, a half-hour’s drive brings you to the magical city of Innsbruck, appreciated for its combination of urban sophistication and Alpine charm. A guided city tour brings you across the Maria-Theresien Strasse, considered one of the most beautiful streets in Europe, and through Innsbruck’s picturesque medieval city center—other highlights are the Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof) and Stadtturm (city tower). Following this stroll, you dine on Austrian classics, such as *Wienerschnitzel* and cheese dumplings, in the heart of the old city.

Alpenhotel Tirolerhof, Neustift, Austria

DAY 5

Transfer to Schönau am Königsee. Alpbachtal; 2.5 miles, easy to moderate

Today you leave the Stubaital and drive along the wide Inn Valley to another Tyrolean side valley, the Alpbachtal (which takes its name from the Alpbach stream that flows through the entire valley). The walking destination for the day is Alpbach, voted Austria’s most beautiful village for its magnificent display of authentic Tyrolean architecture and flowers. Another “hiker’s village,” Alpbach offers endless walking options with numerous lifts and extensive footpaths. Today’s lunch features Tyrolean fare in an Alpine *Erbhof*, a centuries-old farmhouse that has been in the family for hundreds of years and is specifically designed to welcome hikers on their way. Time permitting, you visit historic Rattenberg, a tiny medieval town on the Inn River, famous for its glass-making tradition, that features museums, a pedestrian shopping zone, artisans at work, and another opportunity to relax over a refreshing drink.

In the late afternoon, returning back to Germany, you arrive at your country-style hotel in the Berchtesgaden area. Tonight, you dine independently, either enjoying your hotel's excellent cuisine or dining at one of the restaurants in town, with guidance and transport from your guides.

Alpenhotel Zechmeisterlehen (or equivalent), Schönau am Königsee, Germany

Situated in a picturesque Alpine meadow outside of town, this lovely four-star property features comfortable accommodations with flower-filled balconies, a spa, and indoor and outdoor swimming pools.



DAY 6

Lake Königsee and Berchtesgaden National Park; 4 miles, easy to moderate

The morning begins with a short drive to the Königsee, a deep fjord-like lake with emerald green water flanked by the Walzmann mountain range. Königsee, literally “King’s Lake,” is in the heart of Berchtesgaden National Park and was a favorite retreat of Bavarian kings for many generations. Riding in an electric boat, you glide silently for about five miles, stopping along the way at the famous “echo wall” to listen to the *Flugelhorn* (trumpet) played in a serene mountain setting. The boat also docks at the 17th-century pilgrimage church of St. Bartholomä with its onion domes and red-domed roof, built in Baroque style with a floor plan modeled on Salzburg Cathedral. Until the beginning of the 19th century it was the summer seat for the prince abbots of Berchtesgaden, later a hunting castle of Bavarian kings, and today an inn and restaurant. Off the boat, you begin a walk to Obersee, a small lake that was once part of the Königsee until it was cut off by a large landslide. Nearing the end of the meadow, the Hagen Mountains are reflected in the crystal clear waters of the lake. Continuing on for another 45 minutes, you reach the idyllic mountain pasture, Fischunkel, surrounded by a natural amphitheater. Depending on the weather and route chosen, lunch could be authentic Bavarian fare in a traditional alm or a trailside picnic lunch. An additional (optional) 30 minutes brings you to the Röthbach Waterfall—the highest waterfall in Germany—plunging 1,540 feet.

Retracing the route to the boat, the scenic hour-long ride returns to the lake's opposite shore. Rounding off the day's adventure, you drive into the historic center of Berchtesgaden for independent touring and strolling (with maps provided by your guides) before reuniting for a *Heimatabend*, a traditional Bavarian evening of music and dancing at a favorite and historic local pub. Beer has been brewed here since the 17th century, and it continues to flow accompanied by music, dancing, and huge platters of local specialties—"Prost!"

Alpenhotel Zechmeisterlehen (or equivalent), Schöna am Königsee, Germany

DAY 7

Ramsau Countryside and Lake Hintersee; 7 miles, easy to moderate, 600-ft. elevation gain and loss

The walk today starts in Ramsau at the Ramsauer Pfarrkirche church, one of the region's most-photographed spots. Many painters, including amateur painter Dwight D. Eisenhower, have captured the beauty of this setting from the opposite side of the stream where you begin the walk. The route takes you through the Zauberwald ("Magic Forest") with its garden gnomes, ancient trees, and moss-covered boulders. The halfway point is Lake Hintersee, a source of inspiration to many German artists at the end of the 19th century.

Nearby, lunch is served at a local inn, and later, the remainder of the walk takes you around the lake and into an open meadow with sweeping views of the Reiteralpe, Hochkalter, and Hoher peaks. You enter the forest once more and return to the starting point. There is plenty of time to relax at the hotel and indulge in the spa facilities before reuniting for a final celebratory dinner in the hotel's dining room.

Alpenhotel Zechmeisterlehen (or equivalent), Schöna am Königsee, Germany

DAY 8

Transfer to Salzburg. Guided city tour; 2-3 miles, easy. Departure from Salzburg

Today you return to Austria for a special "Sound of Music" tour featuring the history, architectural sights, and cultural highlights of Salzburg, along with some of the main locations used in the film. Upon completion of this tour, you bid farewell and continue your exploration of this fascinating city, or depart at leisure for your next destination.

ITINERARY CHANGES

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual activities, sites, and accommodations may vary due to season, special events, weather, or transportation schedules. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary, since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance and unforeseen circumstances may arise that mandate change. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.

HIGH-ALTITUDE WARNING

The highest elevation you will be walking at on this tour is approximately 10,500 feet. You will immediately descend from this elevation during the walk. The altitude may have some effect on travelers. Typical symptoms include nausea, a loss of appetite, insomnia, shortness of breath, dizziness, headaches, or other minor irregularities. There are actions you can take to help you adjust to the altitude, including drinking lots of water (more than you feel you need) and getting plenty of sleep. Also, take your time while walking, allow your body to adjust, and always keep your guides informed of how you are feeling. Please discuss with your doctor whether taking altitude medication would be helpful.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Country Walkers is a leader in active travel with responsible tourism an integral part of our core values. Our tours reflect our dedication to best travel practices—and to the preservation of indigenous cultures and the environment. Country Walkers has made a donation on behalf of every traveler to the CW Travelers Fund, which supports designated projects in the communities and habitats in which we travel. We invite you to learn more about our efforts and initiatives for giving back.

Tour Itinerary Overview

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Platzl Hotel, Munich, Germany, 8:15 a.m.

Sparkassenstraße, 10
80331 Munich, Germany
Tel 011 49 8923 7030
Email info@platzl.de
platzl.de

NIGHT 1

Post Hotel Mittenwald

Mittenwald, Germany
Tel 011 49 8823 9382 333
Fax 011 49 8823 9382 999
Email info@posthotel-mittenwald.de
posthotel-mittenwald.de
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 2, 3 & 4

Alpenhotel Tirolerhof

Neustift, Austria
Tel 011 43 5226 3278
Fax 011 43 5226 3278-112
Email info@alpenhotel-tirolerhof.com
alpenhotel-tirolerhof.com
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 5, 6 & 7

Alpenhotel Zechmeisterlehen

Schönau am Königsee, Germany
Tel 011 49 8652 9450
Fax 011 49 8652 945299
Email info@zechmeisterlehen.de
zechmeisterlehen.de
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

OR

Hotel Edelweiss (August 27)

Berchtesgaden, Germany
Tel 011 49 8652 9799201
Email berchtesgaden@edelweiss-hotels.com

edelweiss-hotels.com

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Salzburg central train station, Salzburg, Austria, 11:30 a.m.

TRAVEL DELAY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you are delayed while traveling, or experience any unforeseen situation en route to your tour, assistance is only a few, easy steps away:

As a Country Walkers guest, you benefit from 24-hour, toll free access to One Call Emergency Hotline and Travel Assistance. Call the numbers below from anywhere in the world to get immediate assistance (regarding everything from lost luggage, to missed connections, to health concerns or notifying your guides or our local partners of a delayed arrival).

To contact One Call, please use one of the following methods:

By Email: mail@oncallinternational.com

By Text: 603.945.0103

By Phone:

If calling from within the USA: 800.555.9095

If calling from outside the USA: 800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710

When calling from outside the USA, you will need to dial the access code for the country you are calling from (a complete list of access codes, provided by AT&T, can be found on the Country Walkers website under Travel Planning and Travel Resources: AT&T International Access Codes. If you receive an automated response, when prompted, you can then enter either of the numbers above; One Call accepts collect calls 24/7.

In the unlikely event you are unable to connect by phone with One Call, or the region you are calling from does not have an access code, you should speak with a live international operator and ask them to place a collect call to **800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710**.

Should there be any problems placing a collect call (as is occasionally the case depending on the country), dial, email, or text One Call directly and ask them to return your call immediately to minimize any out of pocket costs.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We offer guests the opportunity to purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please contact us for details.

Tour Facts at a Glance

TOUR LENGTH (WITHOUT FLIGHT PACKAGE)

8 days, 7 nights

DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICE

Please refer to our website for the most current list of departure dates, scheduled group tour and private tour prices.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Platzl Hotel, Munich, Germany, 8:15 a.m.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Salzburg central train station, Salzburg, Austria, 11:30 a.m.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate, with an average of 4 to 8 miles per day and options on some days. There are daily ascents and descents varying between 300 and 1,600 feet. The highest altitude on tour is 5,700 feet, except for a glacier walk that starts at 10,500 feet and descends from that elevation. Walks are mostly on smooth terrain through meadows, woods, and villages at the foot of the Alps. Some trails with roots and rocks require good balance as they can be slippery when wet. The itinerary perfectly balances Alpine walks, relaxation, and cultural accents such as guided city tours and a castle visit.

INCLUSIONS

- » Two expert, local guides (for groups of 8 or more), with you 24/7
- » All meals except for two dinners; local wine or beer included with dinners
- » All accommodations while on tour
- » Transportation from the meeting point to the departure point
- » Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary
- » Destination information (weather, visa requirements, etc.) and other travel assistance available 24/7 provided by One Call International

- » The unbeatable and cumulative experience of the Country Walkers staff

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

Prior to your adventure you will be asked to sign a Passenger Participation Agreement and you will receive:

- » Luggage tags
- » List of travel companions and guide biographies

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for all hotels, meals, and services that are included in your tour price will be paid by Country Walkers. Should you wish to tip your Country Walkers guide(s), the standard in the industry ranges from \$10 to \$15 per person, per guide, per day (or \$20 to \$30 per couple, per guide, per day), and can be paid in USD or local currency. Gratuities for your bus driver are included in the tour price, but additional tips are always welcome.

Traveling To and From Your Tour

If you are interested in reserving the **optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **pre- or post-tour extensions**, please refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

Platzl Hotel, Munich, Germany, 8:15 a.m.

Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for easy walking and cultural visits.

MOST CONVENIENT AIRPORT

Munich International Airport (MUC), Munich, Germany
munich-airport.de

GETTING TO THE MEETING POINT

The most convenient way to travel to Munich is by air to the Munich International Airport. The Platzl Hotel, our meeting-point hotel in Munich's historic center, is located 20 miles from the airport. You may take a subway (S-Bahn) from the airport to "Marienplatz." The journey takes approximately 1 hour and costs 10 euros. The Platzl Hotel is a 6-minute walk from Marienplatz; taxis are also readily available at Marienplatz for the short ride to the hotel. A taxi from the airport to the hotel takes 1 hour and costs approximately 70 euros.

You may also travel to Munich by train. From Munich's main railway station (Hauptbahnhof) you may take a 10-minute taxi ride to the hotel at a cost of approximately 10 euros. Taxis are readily available at the train station.

Approximate travel times for train travel to Munich from various cities are as follows: Frankfurt: 3-4 hours; Vienna: 4-5 hours; Salzburg: 2 hours. For further rail information, including reservations, schedules, and up-to-date fares, please call Rail Europe at 800.438.7245 or consult their website: **raileurope.com**. You may also consult the German railway website at **bahn.de**. We recommend making reservations in advance for major train routes.

PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the tour meeting point hotel, the Platzl Hotel. To make a reservation, please contact the hotel directly.

Platzl Hotel

Sparkassenstraße, 10
80331 Munich, Germany
Tel 011 49 8923 7030
Email info@platzl.de
platzl.de

Located in the city center of Munich, the four-star Platzl Hotel is just a short walk from the famous Marienplatz, the Opera, and other major attractions.

Guestrooms are cozy with traditional decor. In addition to two restaurants and bar, also within the hotel are a Turkish steam bath and sauna and a fitness room. Rates for a double room from 190 euros (including breakfast but exclusive of taxes).

DELAYS AND LATE ARRIVALS

If you are delayed or miss the scheduled group meeting for any reason, we kindly request that you contact our emergency assistance provider, One Call International. This service is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to assist you with any type of travel delay. Please refer to the Emergency Contact details on your Tour Itinerary Overview page for One Call International contact details.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINT AND TIME

Salzburg central train station, Salzburg, Austria, 11:30 a.m.

If you plan to schedule your return flights immediately following the tour's conclusion, please contact your airline directly for specific check-in requirements.

LEAVING SALZBURG

If you wish to return to Munich immediately after the tour ends, there are direct trains from Salzburg to the Munich main railway station (approximately 2 hours). The journey costs approximately 30 euros; reservations are not necessary. From the Munich central train station, you may take a subway (S8 or S1) to the Munich International Airport (1 hour and 10 euros), or a taxi to your hotel.

If you are extending your stay in Salzburg, taxis are readily available at the train station to take you to your hotel for 8-12 euros. Shuttles from Salzburg hotels to

the Munich International Airport can be arranged by contacting Salzburger Mietwagen Service (2½ hours and approximately 60 euros per person).

Salzburger Mietwagen Service (SMS)

Tel 011 43 662 8161

Fax 011 43 662 436 324

Email sms@flughafentransfer.at

flughafentransfer.at

If you choose to fly out of Salzburg's W.A. Mozart Airport (SZG, salzburg-airport.com), you can take the train, the bus (line 2, departing the main train station every 20 minutes) or a taxi (20 minutes and approximately 15 euros).

Information & Policies

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

Country Walkers guarantees the departure of every tour*—no exceptions and no disappointments! From the moment you make your deposit, you can start preparing for your adventure. We take care of all the details to ensure a seamless, small-group experience (with an average of 6 or 7 guests per guide). For best availability, reserve your trip today!

**except in cases of force majeure*

GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES

Each guest has the responsibility to select a trip appropriate to his/her abilities and interests and to prepare for the trip by carefully reading the confirmation materials. To join this trip, you must be in good health and capable of completing activities as described in the day-to-day itinerary. Our in-house experts welcome the opportunity to discuss the tour in more detail. In order to meet your needs, we ask that you please share any relevant physical limitations or health conditions when you make your reservation.

SCHEDULED GROUP INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS

Reservations for this tour may be made by calling Country Walkers at 800.464.9255 and providing a \$350 per person deposit. The Balance of your payment (final tour cost) is due 90 days prior to the tour departure date.

SCHEDULED GROUP CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of \$150; cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date. Up to 91 days prior to departure, you may transfer your reservation, depending on availability, from one departure to another in the same calendar year at no cost*. Please notify us in writing.

**One transfer per year; afterwards a modest per person transfer fee will apply. Please note that tours with seasonal prices may involve a higher price.*

PRIVATE ADVENTURE RESERVATION & CANCELLATION POLICIES

If you are booking a Private Adventure, a \$500 nonrefundable group deposit is required to secure hotel reservations and guides. Once these arrangements are confirmed, the deposit will be applied as the provider's deposit for the trip. If we are unable to secure the hotel and/or guides for your requested dates, this deposit will be refunded.

Once your Private Adventure is confirmed, your individual \$350 per person deposit is required within 14 days. The balance of your payment (final tour cost) is due 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of \$150 (plus the nonrefundable group deposit of \$500); cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date. **Please note that Private Adventure tour pricing is based on a guarantee of a specified number of guests. Should the group decrease in size, we reserve the right to alter the per person price, if necessary.**

Austria at a Glance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



U.S. citizens: Passports are required and must be valid for at least three months beyond the dates of travel. Visas are not required for stays of up to 90 days.

For more information, see travel.state.gov.

Travel Tip

Have a variety of options to start your trip: ATM card(s), credit card(s), some dollars to exchange, and some euros in small denominations.

CURRENCY

Austria uses the euro (EUR). For up-to-date exchange rates, see oanda.com.

Many businesses in Europe will no longer accept credit cards without PIN numbers (chip and pin cards).

Always contact your bank or your credit-card company for details on fees and card use when traveling.

TIME ZONE

Austria is in the Central European Time Zone, Eastern Standard Time plus six hours. For more information on worldwide time zones, see worldtimezone.com.

PHONE & INTERNET

Austria country code: +43

Cell phone coverage throughout Austria but cannot be guaranteed to be accessible on all American mobile carriers or to function at all times while on the trail or in remote areas. For more information regarding international phone use, please refer to countrywalkers.com/phones.

Internet access is generally very good in towns and villages, however, it is not guaranteed at all of the hotels used on the tour. For more details regarding Wi-Fi availability, please refer to the Tour Itinerary Overview.



LANGUAGE

The official language of Austria is German.

While knowledge of German is not necessary, you may want to learn some fun and useful phrases; see bbc.co.uk/languages/german or the enclosed Reading Guide for a suggested phrase book.

ELECTRICITY

Alternating current of 230V and 50Hz is used in Austria. Plugs have either two round pins and a hole, or just two round pins. For a full listing of electrical outlets worldwide, see electricaloutlet.org.

WEATHER

Austria is in the temperate climate zone, however three distinct regions can be found: most of the country has continental patterns typical for Central Europe, with cold winters and warm and pleasant summer months ranging from May to September, and peak temperatures in July and August; the Eastern edge benefits from milder winters and low precipitation, while at higher altitude, Alpine climate brings high precipitation and long winters. Mountaintop and evening temperatures can be considerably lower than those during the daytime and at lower elevations.

For up-to-date forecasts, see qwikcast.com. For historical average temperatures and rainfall, see weatherbase.com.

Travel Tip

- Bringing your own hair dryer or other electrical device? You'll need a travel converter, available at most hardware, travel, or consumer electronic stores.
- For laptops or an electronic device with a dual voltage switch, you'll need the adapter plug but not a converter.

FOOD & DRINK



Austrian food is wholesome and hearty with meat and dumplings, and famously the breaded and fried veal or pork cutlet *Wienerschnitzel*. Dumplings, called *Knödel*, can be made either sweet or savory according to taste. Beef, sausages,

potatoes, and broth soups all are on the menu, as well as fresh lake fish in Austria's lake region. Desserts and baked goods are also key components of the Austrian diet. Almost every village has a bakery with a large selection of rolls, white and rye. Well-loved desserts are, of course, *Apfelstrudel* (apple strudel), *Linzertorte* (a flaky cake with raspberry jam), and *Sachertorte* (two tiers of chocolate cake separated by a thin layer of apricot jam and topped with chocolate icing).

Austria has a number of tempting beverages, from its famous coffee, often served with whipped cream, to first-class wines, to high-quality lager brews. Also appreciated after dinner is Schnapps, fruit brandy from pear, apricot, or raspberry.

LIFE IN AUSTRIA



Shopping and banking hours

Shopping hours: Shops and stores are generally open Monday to Saturday from 8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; in small towns they may close for one to three hours for lunch, check locally.

Banks are open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (and to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays).

Meal times

Breakfast is served at hotels from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. In restaurants, lunch is served (almost exclusively) from noon to 2:00 p.m. and dinner is served from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tipping

Gratuities in restaurants and bars are included (15 percent) in the total bill; for exceptional service, you could round up the total or leave one to two euros. Taxi drivers could receive one to three euros or a rounded-up total. For luggage assistance, a tip of one to two euros per bag is appropriate.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

National Austrian tourist board official site
austria.info

Public holidays

To assist in travel planning, it may be helpful to be aware of Austrian public holidays, festivals, or calendars of events. Visit the Austrian tourist board's website: austria.info, navigating to "Basic Facts" and "Practical Information."

TRAVEL IN AUSTRIA

Trains

Austrian Railway: oebb.at, Austria's national train company.

Raileurope: raileurope.com or 800.622.8600: a U.S.-based company that provides schedules, reservations, and ticketing for all European train networks (their multi-day/-week/-month passes in one country or combinations of countries may be an economical and convenient choice for European train travel.)

Other local transportation

Direct flights from the U.S. are available to Vienna, with short internal flights available to smaller cities such as Salzburg (salzburg-airport.com/en) and Innsbruck (innsbruck-airport.com/en). Reaching any destination in Austria is easy on its excellent rail network or via extensive regional bus lines.



Taxis are available at all major airports, train stations, and in smaller towns, and can be reserved in advance (your hotel can usually provide assistance). Most major car rental agencies are available at Austrian airports and train stations. For more information, go to austria.info and click on “Basic Facts,” then “Practical Information,” and “Driving Regulations.”

Travel Tip

Austrian Aristocracy and Music

Austria's lake district, the *Salzkammergut* (which means roughly “salt room depository”) is brimming with human history. Referred to as “the Cradle of Civilization” because of archeological finds from the 12,000 BC Neolithic Stone Age, things were quiet up through the 18th century when its salt deposits were both mined and carefully guarded, leaving the countryside pristine. The Hapsburg dynasty was in on the secret, however, and appreciated the region's unspoiled beauty and mineral baths for centuries. Into the 19th century, it became a center for Austrian aristocracy to take the waters and enjoy the summer opera season.

- The legacy of the region's cultural heritage is the acclaimed annual Operetta Festival in Bad Ischl, held in July and August: leharfestival.at
- The famous Salzburg Festival, described as one of the best music festivals in the world, also runs from late July through August: salzburgfestival.at

Germany at a Glance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



U.S. citizens: Passports are required and must be valid for at least three months beyond the dates of travel. Visas are not required for stays of up to 90 days.

For more information, see travel.state.gov.

CURRENCY

Germany uses the euro (EUR). For up-to-date exchange rates, see oanda.com.

Travel Tip

Have a variety of options to start your trip: ATM card(s), credit card(s), and some dollars to exchange.

Many businesses in Europe will no longer accept credit cards without PIN numbers (chip and pin cards). Always contact your bank or your credit-card company for details on fees and card use when traveling.

TIME ZONE

Germany is in the Central European Time Zone, Eastern Standard Time plus six hours. For more information on worldwide time zones, see worldtimezone.com.

PHONE & INTERNET

Germany country code: +49

Cell phone coverage throughout Germany is extensive, but cannot be guaranteed to be accessible on all American mobile carriers or to function at all times while on the trail or in remote areas. For more information regarding international phone use, please refer to countrywalkers.com/phones.

Internet access is generally very good in towns and villages, however, it is not guaranteed at all of the hotels used on the tour. For more details regarding Wi-Fi availability, please refer to the Tour Itinerary Overview.



LANGUAGE

The official language of Germany is German.

While knowledge of the local language is not necessary, you may want to learn some fun and useful phrases; see bbc.co.uk/languages/german or the enclosed Reading Guide for a suggested phrase book.

ELECTRICITY

Alternating current of 230V and 50Hz is used in Germany. Plugs have either two round pins and a hole, or just two round pins. For a full listing of electrical outlets worldwide, see electricaloutlet.org.

WEATHER

Germany has a temperate climate with some regional variation, mainly based on elevation, with few extreme fluctuations in temperature. Rain can fall year-round, although precipitation is heavier in the fall and winter. Summer temperatures can range from mid-60s to low 70s, with warmer or cooler periods. Temperatures in the mountains are cooler, especially at higher elevations, and morning and evening temperatures, or those on high summits, can be much lower than at lower elevations.

For up-to-date forecasts, see qwikcast.com. For historical average temperatures and rainfall, see weatherbase.com.

FOOD & DRINK



German food is wholesome and varied, and while it can live up to its reputation for heartiness, it is based on seasonal produce and ingredients and has extensive regional variation. Germans are meat eaters, with emphasis on cooked sausages, *Sauerbraten* (pot roast), game such as venison and fowl, and breaded veal or pork cutlets—*Wiener Schnitzel*; but both fresh- and salt-water fish can also be found on many menus. Soups, either creamy vegetable purees or broths with noodles and dumplings, are also common. Salads can be comprise a variety of vegetables, often with a thick creamy dressing, and you'll also find sautéed vegetables, potatoes, and of course cabbage in the form of sauerkraut.

Travel Tip

- Bringing your own hair dryer or other electrical device? You'll need a travel converter, available at most hardware, travel, or consumer electronic stores.
- For laptops or an electronic device with a dual voltage switch, you'll need the adapter plug but not a converter.

Germany is a country of tempting baked goods: a large variety of breads and rolls, whole meal or white, are ubiquitous, as well as cakes containing a variety of fruits and berries, such as the decadent *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* (cherry, chocolate, and cream Black Forest Cake).

Germany is best known for its high-quality beer, predominantly pilsner. Weiss beer, or wheat beer, and other regional brews are also available. Germany also produces wine in the upper and middle Rhône River region—well-known whites are Riesling or Silvaner, and reds are Spätburgunder and Dornfelder.

Travel Tip

Oktoberfest: Oktoberfest is held annually in late September to mid-October in the Bavarian city of Munich, Germany's third largest. Centered in the Hofbräuhaus am Platzl (main beer hall), the festival has its origins in the celebration of a royal wedding in 1810. Munich's regional beers include "Weissbier" (also spelled as "Weizenbier"—wheat beer), golden-colored Helles, and the dark "Dunkles." Oktoberfest's culinary specialties include "Weißwurst" (white sausage), freshly baked pretzels, and apple strudel. A hearty "Prost!" or "Zum Wohl!"—both mean "cheers!"

LIFE IN GERMANY



Shopping and banking hours

Shops and stores are generally open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. On the first Saturday of the month, stores are open until 4:00 p.m., and stores are closed on Sunday.

Banks are open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Mealtimes

Breakfast is served at hotels from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. In restaurants and cafés, lunch is served from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and dinner is usually served from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Tipping

In restaurants and cafés: if service is not included at a restaurant, it is customary to leave 10 to 15 percent of the total. *Bedienung* means "service is included," so

you can just round up to the nearest euro. For taxi drivers you can also round up. For luggage assistance, one euro per bag is typical.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

National German tourist board official site
germany.travel/en/

Public holidays

To assist in travel planning, it may be helpful to be aware of German public holidays, festivals, or calendars of events. For a list of public holidays, see officeholidays.com/countries/germany/index.php.



TRAVEL IN GERMANY

A wealth of travel information is available at
germany.travel/en/.

Airports

The majority of international flights arrive at Frankfurt's international airport (frankfurt-airport.com) or Munich's international airport (www.munich-airport.de/en/consumer/index.jsp), with short connecting flights to most other cities in Germany on an extensive domestic air network.

Trains

German Rail (DB Rail): bahn.de, the national railway company site with schedules, fares, and pass options.

Raileurope: raileurope.com or 800.622.8600: a U.S.-based company that provides schedules, reservations, and ticketing for all European train networks (their multi-day/-week/-month passes in one country or combinations of countries may be an economical and convenient choice for European train travel.).

Other local transportation

In addition to rail and airlines, Germany also has an extensive bus network that, for some towns and cities, may be more convenient and affordable than rail, see eurolines.de/en/.

Travel Tips

Deutsche Bahn, the German rail network, often conveniently connects with airports and, depending on your airline, you may be able to check your luggage to your final railway destination. Check with your travel agent, airline, or DB Rail for more information (bahn.de/i/view/USA/en/index.shtml).

Most major car rental agencies are available at airports and train stations. Taxis are available at all major airports, train stations, and in smaller towns, and can be reserved in advance (your hotel can usually provide assistance). For more information contact Country Walkers, or go to germany.travel/en/travel-information/along-the-way/along-the-way.html.

Packing List

PACKING TIPS

Pack light! Keep in mind there will be times you may have to carry your own luggage short distances, especially before and after your Country Walkers tour. Due to space constraints, we require you to limit your luggage to one medium piece (approximately 18x15x29 inches or 8,000 cu. in.) and one small carry-on, per person. We recommend packing any personal necessities, medications, your hotel itinerary/emergency contact information, your hiking boots (or shoes), and extra clothes in your carry-on luggage in the event that your baggage is delayed. We suggest leaving valuable jewelry at home. A copy of your passport or other important documents should be kept in a separate area of your luggage. Always be alert when carrying a purse, camera, money belt, or backpack in busy cities, airports, and train stations.

A NOTE ABOUT VARIABLE WEATHER

Please note that the weather in the mountains is often unpredictable and can quickly switch from bright, warm sunshine to snow flurries or rain, wind, and cool temperatures, all over the course of one day. Dressing appropriately will be the key to your comfort while walking. Dressing in layers and in synthetic fiber clothing (not cotton) that wicks moisture and dries quickly is essential.

FOOTWEAR

- » Hiking boots. There are many brands to choose from. Proper fit is crucial, so try on new boots while wearing socks you plan to use on tour. Be sure to break in new footwear well before your tour begins. By the time you're ready to join your walking tour, you should be able to complete 5-8 miles of walking without discomfort. We require lightweight boots with proper ankle support and good tread to ensure stability and comfort on all types of terrain. Waterproof footwear keeps feet dry in heavy rain and water resistant footwear keeps feet dry in heavy dew. Country Walkers reserves the right to deny participation to any guest not wearing appropriate footwear.
- » Comfortable shoes for city tours or evening strolls on uneven, cobblestone streets
- » Synthetic, moisture-wicking socks (cotton socks are not recommended for walking as they will quickly cause blisters)

- » Blister remedy

CLOTHING

- » Lightweight, wash-and-wear long pants
- » Long-sleeved, wash-and-wear shirt
- » T-shirts and shorts
- » Polar fleece or light wool pullover (it will keep you warm even when wet)
- » Dinner attire: dress is smart casual
- » Light jacket or sweater for evening strolls

OUTERWEAR

- » Waterproof rain gear: jacket, pants, hat, or hood
- » Windbreaker with hood (your rain gear may be suitable)
- » Hat with a broad brim or visor
- » Lightweight fleece or wool hat and gloves for higher altitudes

EQUIPMENT

- » Pack (minimum size of 25L): large enough to carry water, extra clothing, all of your waterproof gear, camera, sunblock, etc.
- » Waterproof cover for pack
- » Water bottle, canteen, or CamelBak-type water reservoir or hydration pack to carry your own water while walking (equivalent of one to two liters)
- » Sunblock and lip balm
- » Insect repellent
- » Sunglasses
- » Toilet kit for when facilities are not available on the walks. Include zip-lock baggies, tissues, and moist towelettes, which can be disposed of upon return to the hotel.
- » Personal first-aid kit including any medications you ordinarily take (in their original container)

OPTIONAL

- » Telescopic walking sticks. (Please note that while telescopic walking sticks are highly recommended for this tour, they are not provided by Country Walkers. Therefore please plan on bringing your own should you wish to use them.)
- » Binoculars
- » Bathing suit for use in hotel pools and spas
- » Camera and charger and/or extra batteries
- » Zip-lock bags (to keep camera and valuables dry)
- » Small notebook and pen
- » Field guides (see enclosed reading list)
- » Folding umbrella
- » Bandana
- » Washcloth (many European hotels do not provide them)
- » Hand sanitizer and/or moist towelettes
- » Motion sickness bracelets or other non-sleep-inducing remedy if prone to motion sickness on bus or boat rides
- » Alarm clock