



Hiking Austria and Bavaria – From Tyrolean Mountain Huts to a King’s Fairy Tale Castles

June 30 – July 7, 2015

TRIP ITINERARY





*Hiking Austria and Bavaria: From Tyrolean Mountain Huts to a King's Fairy Tale Castles
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Hike to high mountain huts and through alpine meadows filled with wildflowers and awe-inspiring glacial scenery
- Explore and hike to “Mad” King Ludwig II’s fairy tale castles, through beautiful villages with baroque churches, and past elaborately painted farm houses
- 4-star hotels that combine local charm with luxury and fine food
- Luxuriate in the spa facilities of our Neustift hotel
- Discover the folkloric traditions and folk music of the region
- Experience the old world ambiance and architecture of this stunning Alps area of northern Austria (the Tyrol) and southwestern Germany (Bavaria)

LAND COST

2-3 guests: \$3550 USD per person double occupancy
 4-8 guests: \$3025 USD per person double occupancy
 \$275 per person single supplement
 \$500 USD deposit
 Payment in full required 90 days before departure

HIKE RATING

1 2 3 4 5
 Easy.....Most Strenuous

Moderate to high energy. Participants must be comfortable hiking on trails that are sometimes rocky. You must be able to hike 5-10 miles both up and downhill on trails in mountainous terrain. You will spend 4-6 hours a day hiking.

Overview

Join Bredeson Outdoor Adventures for a magnificent hiking vacation in the European Alps. Two of its most spectacular and beautiful areas are combined on this trip, from the high mountain peaks and traditional huts of the Austrian Tyrol to the fairy tale castles and forested mountains of southwestern Germany’s Bavaria.

In Austria we stay in a four star hotel in the beautiful Tyrolean village of Neustift, reached only by a narrow road that travels between high mountain peaks. The hotel has spa facilities, the use of which is included in the price. Our hiking vacation takes us through lush meadows filled with wildflowers and to high mountain huts above tree-line, where we can indulge in Apfelstrudel (*mit Schlag* (whipped cream), if you please!) while viewing stunning glacial panoramas.

We then journey over the Austrian border into the mountains of Bavaria, to hike and visit several castles and lodges built by the enigmatic Bavarian Monarch Ludwig II. Based in a charming hotel near the historic town of Fuessen in “the King’s Corner” of Bavaria we view two of Ludwig’s castles: one in which he grew up, and the famous Neuschwanstein, which he spent his lifetime building. We’ll hike to Ludwig’s private hunting lodge and visit Linderhof, Ludwig’s most beautiful castle. Returning to the lovely city of Innsbruck, we’ll explore the medieval heart of this city that is perched in a bowl and is surrounded by the Alps. This trip also lends itself to a self-guided extension in Innsbruck and to the beautiful Berchtesgaden, Koenigsee, and Salzburg area.



Itinerary

Day 1: Neustift – Trip Orientation and Welcome Dinner

We greet you at 11:00 a.m. at the Innsbruck Airport and transfer to Neustift by private van.

Our first hike begins in Neustift where we ride the Elfer Chairlift to access its 5,886' top station. We take a trail to Autenalm, through the forest where we are treated to many wildflowers. We'll stop for lunch, or Kaffee und Kuchen (coffee and cake), or both ☺, at a convivial Austrian hut. We hike back to town in time to enjoy our lovely 4-star hotel's spa facilities. We'll begin to get to know each other over a welcome drink and a gourmet dinner in the hotel. *Hike:* Moderate; 3.0 hours; 147 meters up; 1665 meters down. Meals: L, D. *Overnight:* Hotel Sonnhof, Neustift, Austria

Day 2: Neustift – Jochdohle – Bsuchalm – Nurnberger Hut

After our morning coffee, a hearty breakfast, and a discussion of today's adventures, we travel by van to the end of the Stubai Valley. If the weather allows, we enjoy a gondola ride up to the top of the glacier at Jochdohle -- the "Top of Tyrol" -- at over 9,000 feet. We'll feel like we have been transported forward to winter, minus the cold weather, as skiers zoom by. Depending upon conditions, we may venture onto the glacier for a short walk before riding the lift back down.

We'll then transfer to the hamlet of Fulpmes and the hike up to the Bsuchalm, another in the seemingly endless series of beautifully-sited restaurants and cafés. There is an option to extend with a hike to the rustic Nurnberger Hut. *Hike:* choices: 3 hours and 211 meters gain (moderate) or 5/6 hours and 911 meters gain (challenging). We can do something between these if we wish. Meals: B, D. *Overnight:* Hotel Sonnhof, Neustift, Austria





Day 3: Neustift – Oberberg Valley – Franz Senn Hut

We travel up the wonderfully remote Oberberg Valley to the start of our hike at the Oberriess Hut, driving at a sedate pace to avoid the cows that also share the road at times. We hike up to the classic Franz Senn Hut. Those who wish can then spend the afternoon exploring a number of trails from the Franz Senn Hut. Alternatively, some may wish to spend the afternoon enjoying the view, writing post cards, and eating pastry. We'll hike back to the Oberriess Hut for the return drive to the hotel. After relaxing in the spa facilities, and enjoying the hotel's gourmet spread, we venture out to a Gasthof that is a favorite of locals and sometimes features zither music. *Hike:* moderate: 5 hours and 405 meters altitude gain. *Meals:* B, D. *Overnight:* Hotel Sonnhof, Neustift, Austria



Day 4: Ettal – Linderhof – Wieskirche - Hohenschwangau

We travel through the mountains on the *Deutsche Alpenstrasse* (German Alpine Road) to Bavaria via the violin-making town of Mittenwald to Linderhof Castle. Linderhof is arguably Ludwig's most beautiful castle and we'll have a chance to tour it before continuing by van to Hohenschwangau via the Wieskirche, an 18th century Rococo church that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll then check in to our 4-star hotel with views of both Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau Castles and go for a walk around the idyllic Alpsee. *Hike:* easy; 2 hours and fairly flat walk at the end of this travel and touring day. *Meals:* B, L, D. *Overnight:* Hotel Mueller, Hohenschwangau, Germany

Day 5: Hohenschwangau – Tegelberg – Bleckenau - Neuschwanstein

Today we'll have views of mountain peaks and castles for much of the day, and, just to top it off, we'll hike through a beautiful gorge. Our hike today starts with a cable car ride to the top of Tegelberg, a hike through Pollat Gorge and then a tour of Neuschwanstein, Ludwig II's most fanciful castle, a 19th century knight's fortress based on German sagas and Ludwig's obsession with the music of Richard Wagner. We'll stop for a break during the hike at the



Bleckenau, a former hunting lodge of Bavarian royalty. Dinner tonight will be on your own, giving you the opportunity to explore the medieval town of neighboring Fuessen, with its Benedictine Abbey, the Lech River cascading down through town, and its own high castle. *Hike:* moderate (though the downhill can be tiring); 4.5 hours; 900 meters elevation loss. *Meals:* B,L. *Overnight:* Hotel Mueller, Hohenschwangau, Germany



Day 6: Schachen – Elmau or Fuessen

Today we have two excellent options from which your guide will select one. In the first, we'll drive to and through Garmisch-Partenkirchen, site of the fourth winter Olympics, to Elmau, where we'll start our hike to Ludwig's little known hunting lodge Schachen. It was here that Ludwig got away from it all in a both geographic and historical sense. Hidden on the second story of this typically timber-framed Alpine house is a secret Turkish room, where Ludwig's servants would wait on him in Oriental attire. Our hike will take us through the woods at first, after which we'll emerge to a view of the lodge beneath the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. We'll tour the truly remarkable lodge and return to the start point. We'll return to our Hohenschwangau hotel for our last night in Bavaria. The other wonderful choice, a local option, is a hike to the beautiful medieval city of Fuessen, which we'll explore on foot, followed by a hike in the woods past lakes and a castle back to Fuessen. *Hike:* challenging; 6 hours; 854 meters altitude gain. *Meals:* B, D. *Overnight:* Hotel Mueller, Hohenschwangau, Germany

Day 7: Innsbruck

Today we'll leave Bavaria and return to Innsbruck in Tyrol where we'll have the afternoon free to explore the Altstadt (Old Town) of this beautiful city on foot. For the diehard walkers in the group we'll offer an optional hike in the hills surrounding Innsbruck to savor the views of the city. Lunch is on your own today, with Innsbruck's myriad cafés, bakeries



and restaurants from which to choose. Weather permitting, our farewell dinner tonight will be outdoors, allowing us to watch the action in Innsbruck's medieval heart and pedestrian zone. Meals: B, D. *Overnight:* Hotel Goldener Adler, Innsbruck, Austria



Day 8: Farewell to Austria and Bavaria

After breakfast we'll offer one group transfer to the Innsbruck airport by 9:00 for departure to the U.S. or other destinations. Meals: B.

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual walks and sites may vary due to season, special events or weather. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance, and unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience. We are always on the look-out for fun surprises to add to the itinerary.

Transportation

A private van or car will pick you up at the airport. Transportation to daily hikes, where needed, will be by van/car or local busses. A short taxi ride will return you to the Innsbruck airport at the end of the trip. Cablecars (included in the price) will also transport us to several of our outings and hikes.

Meeting Point and Time

11:00 a.m. on Day 1 at the Innsbruck, Austria airport. If you cannot make the appointed meeting time, please plan to arrive a day early and meet the group at the airport.

Departure Point and Time

On Day 8 we will depart the Innsbruck hotel for the 4-mile transfer to the Innsbruck Airport by 9:00. We will provide one group transfer.



Land Cost

2-3 guests: \$3550 USD per person double occupancy

4-8 guests: \$3025 USD per person double occupancy

\$275 USD single supplement

\$500 USD deposit. Deposit is payable by check or by credit card through PayPal. The balance is payable by check and is due 90 days before departure.

Included in Price

- 4-star accommodations in the hotels noted or in comparable accommodations. We may substitute a hotel in Fuessen for the hotel in Hohenschwangau.
- Use of spa selected facilities in our hotel in Neustift (days 1, 2 and 3)
- Transportation to/from daily hikes and the Innsbruck airport
- All lifts used on planned hikes
- Admission to the cultural attractions listed in the itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary: Lunches will be simple, healthy and hearty meals, taken either in huts or as picnics. Dinners will be elegant, multi-course meals.
- Expert, bilingual guide services throughout the trip provided by Deborah Lewis, owner of Bredeson Outdoor Adventures. Deborah lived five years in southern Germany and Switzerland, has hiked and traveled extensively throughout the area, and is an expert in this part of the world.
- Cultural and historical information shared informally during walks
- Travel brochures and hiking maps
- The outdoor industry's most comprehensive and user-friendly pre-trip information packet, including packing lists, joining instructions, conditioning guidelines, reading lists, historical information, etc.
- According to your needs, pre-trip email or telephone consultation. We are happy to spend time with you to help you prepare for this adventure and view consultation as a fun and important part of our job.
- Our extensive experience and attentive customer service

Not Included in Price

- Air travel
- Gratuities for your guide(s). A gratuity for your guide(s) is at your discretion, but the standard for a job well done is approximately \$10-15 USD per person per guide per day or \$20-30USD per couple per guide per day.
- All beverages with dinner
- Items not on set dinner menu where applicable. Please note: the hotels are, however, very good about accommodating special dietary needs.



- Transfers not noted in the itinerary
- Extra spa treatments
- Lift, if applicable, on optional hike in Innsbruck on day 7.
- Anything not identified in the above “included in price” section.

Cancellation Policy

If it becomes necessary to cancel your trip, the following schedule applies and is determined by the day that we receive written notification:

- >90 days prior to the trip: you will be charged \$200/person in addition to any applicable credit card fees
- 90-61 days prior to the trip start: you will be charged 25% of the trip price
- 60-46 days prior to the trip start: you will be charged 50% of the trip price
- 45-0 days prior to the trip start: you will be charged 100% of the trip price

We strongly recommend that you purchase Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance. While it is highly unlikely that you will need to be rescued, you should know that there is a charge for mountain rescue in Europe so insurance is important. Please make sure rescue is included in your insurance.

Group Size

We will run this trip for a minimum of two participants. The group will be held to a maximum of eight - ten guests. **Before making your pre- and post-trip travel arrangements, please contact us to make sure that the trip has reached the minimum number of participants, and the other contingent arrangements have been completed, and is taking place.**

Pre- and Post-Trip Extension

If you wish to arrive in Innsbruck before the start of the trip or stay after the trip, please let us know. While you would need to pay the hotel directly for a pre- or post-trip extension, we would be delighted to make an inquiry on your behalf. The beautiful Berchtesgaden, Koenigsee, and Salzburg area also lends itself to a lovely trip extension.

Trip Rating

This trip is rated moderate to high energy. You must be able to hike 5-10 miles both up and downhill on trails in mountainous, sometimes rocky terrain. You will spend 4-6 hours a day hiking, not counting breaks and lunch stops. In addition to overall aerobic conditioning, it is important to spend time hiking on trails before the trip: road or treadmill walking or running are not adequate preparation for hiking on mountain trails. We will provide



conditioning guidelines prior to the trip, and would also be happy to help you research hiking trails in your area that would be suitable for helping you to prepare. The more you hike before the trip, the safer and more fun will be your Austrian/Bavarian hiking adventure. *However*, the trip is also suited to spouses or partners, who wish to join you but do not hike. The towns and cultural attractions are wonderful, and there are many easy self-guided walks that non-hikers would enjoy.

Questions and How to Sign Up

Contact Deborah Lewis at 866-533-4361 (toll free in the U.S.), 203-840-0295 or dlewis@bredeson.com if you have questions. After confirming your spot in the trip and that the trip is taking place, you can complete the reservation form and payment by going to <http://bredeson.com/trip-sign-up>.

After We Receive Your Reservation

After we have received your reservation, we will provide you with a detailed Trip Planner containing joining instructions, a packing list, a reading list, and other trip preparation details.

We hope that you will join us on this grand adventure!

