

Summer in the Ötztal

A Mountain Novel in 4 Parts

Part 1: Glorious weather in the valley of your dreams

Soon we are there: Ötztal Autobahn exit! I am very curious if our small travel group will be pleased about the choice of this year's summer holiday destination. It was not easy to fulfill all requirements. My husband Peter and his sports pal Markus have been training their stamina already for months – they want to conquer glaciers and high Alpine trekking paths while my 10-year old son Niki is fond of steep rock faces and wants to give climbing a try.

8-year old Claudia, the daughter of my friend Heike, loves climbing as well but she is also enthused about Alpine pasturelands and farm animals like cows, sheep and horses. Heike, a working single parent, has a life full of stress and hectic. Therefore she dreams about peace, rest and relaxation in one of the countless wellness parlors. And my name is Inge, I also prefer a vacation at a more leisurely pace: hiking across lush meadows and playing with the kids at a mountain lake with stopovers on quaint mountain huts. Do we have something in common? Yes, we love cycling and swimming in crystal clear waters. We like the Alps, unspoilt nature and genuine rural traditions.

Now we are looking forward to discovering the 70-kilometer long Ötztal Valley, including Tirol's highest peaks and plenty of fun and action up in the mountains and down in the valley. To cut a long story short: two memorable weeks for all ages and preferences are waiting for us! The weather is still fine, we enjoy lush meadows and shady forests under a deep blue sky.

Our first stop is Oetz. Beautifully decorated facades, old houses and large balconies with colorful summer flowers captivate us. But we have an important thing on our agenda: at the very beginning of our holiday we purchase the ultimate Ötztal Card. The friendly staff at the Information Office explains us all



the important features of this holiday card comprising a great variety of highlights throughout the valley: "You can visit the Aqua Dome, Tirols' biggest spa center, or walk to the Stuiben Falls, Tirol's biggest waterfall. Additionally you enjoy free use of the mountain lifts whisking you up to the most scenic peaks, all public bus lines and a full range of cultural attractions. Great that you can stay with us two weeks! I strongly recommend you the 10-day Ötztal Card which is available at Euro 77 for adults and Euro 36 for children."

We are quite surprised about the great variety of offers, the kids have already discovered something much more interesting: the Ötztal Tabaluga Land! Truly incredible, Claudia and Niki can register in advance for a climbing course. The program folder includes plenty of other activities. Markus is looking for a mountain bike trail map. "Wow! There are almost 700 km of signposted trails spread all over the Ötztal," enthuses our passionate sportsman.

Without any hurry we continue towards the upper valley in the afternoon, past the Ötzi Village in Umhausen and Längenfeld's Aqua Dome Spa Center, a true paradise for Heike. Peter comforts her: "Just a bit of patience! First we conquer the Alpine part of the valley, afterwards we relax and unwind in the soothing thermal waters." We arrive in Sölden, a typical mountain village, and continue further on towards Vent – Ötztal's most renowned mountaineering village at 1900 m above sea level. Here the three thousand meter high peaks are only a stone's throw away.

Next Part (2): Mountaineers just want to have fun

(High Alpine hiking and mountaineering, climbing, mountain biking)

Media Contact Partner:

NICOL KLOTZ

Presse ÖTZTAL TOURISMUS

Gemeindestrasse 4, 6450 Sölden Austria

T +43 (0) 57200 217 F +43 (0) 57200 201 Mobile +43 (0) 664 8557163

nicol.klotz@oetztal.com www.oetztal.com