



# Ötztal Trek

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€ 1.20





# Ötztal Trek

The new Ötztal Trek allows hikers and mountaineers to experience the Ötztal pristine natural beauty. The 400-kilometer long trek comprises 22 stages with 15 alternatively routes and has a total elevation gain of 30,000 meters over the length of the trek. The trek starts at Ötztal-Bahnhof and heads in an eastern direction from hut to hut and across saddles, ridges and peaks to Obergurgl and Vent, before it heads back westwards to Ötztal-Bahnhof.

The great thing about the Ötztal Trek is that it can be as easy or as difficult as you want it to be: each stage has an access and an exit point thus allowing you to walk as many stages as you wish. The trek requires experience some hiking experience and a reasonable fitness level, as some sections of the trail can be quite steep and uneven. The majority of all trails are rated Black, meaning they are difficult and require a good head for heights as well as surefootedness; the other stages are rated Red, i.e. moderately difficult.

As Ötztal wouldn't be what it is without its glacier many routes have sections through the eternal ice where trail blazings and signs are rare. Those who rather avoid these glacier stretches should consider the Ötztal Trek's 15 alternatively routes which all loop back to one of the 22 main routes. And if you are still not tired after a full day of hiking, you can always climb one of Ötztal's majestic peaks. Some stage descriptions include peak hikes as „tip of the day“ Talking about stage descriptions: each description comes with an information block that contains the tour's key features. A "cartroad" is a bumpy, narrow and unsealed road, a "path" a poorly maintained trail with blazings.



However, if a path leads across a glacier blazings and signs will most likely be missing. Proper hiking equipment is required for all tours: ankle-high boots with sturdy soles, wind and rain protection, possibly hiking poles, and a hat and gloves for the higher regions. Bivouac sacks and first aid kits are vital pieces of hiking equipment. Knowing the weather forecast for the area where you are hiking is also essential. Don't forget: mountain refuges do not provide blankets or sleeping bags so bring your own! All routes and variations are marked in overview maps. These overview maps do not replace topographic maps! Another skill that is required for the Ötztal Trek is the ability to read those maps. In short: have fun while being safe. We wish you wonderful experiences in the Ötztal Mountains!

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# Stage 1

ÖTZTAL-BAHNHOF (704 M) → MARLSTEIN (1,790 M) →  
MARAIL (1,730 M) → DORTMUNDER HÜTTE (1,949 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath, road

**Requirements:** good physical condition; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** no difficulties

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 6.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,450 meters climbing, 200 meters descending

**Highest point:** 1,949 m

**Distance:** approx. 17 km

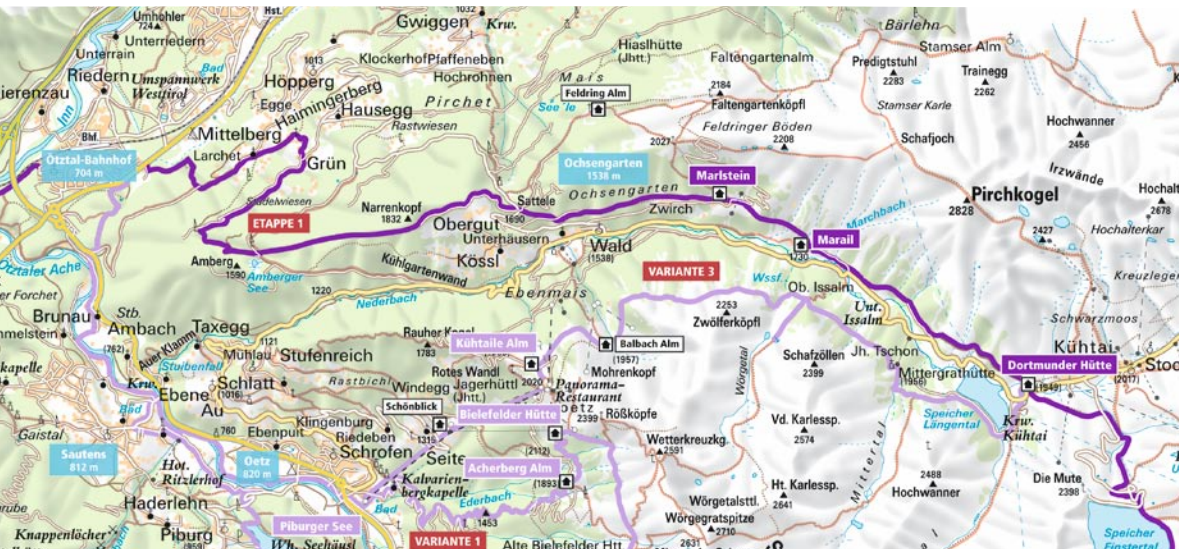
**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Familiengasthof Marlstein, Almhof Marail, Dortmundener Hütte – T +43 (0) 52395202

**Access/Exit points:** public bus from Oetz to Kühtai

## DESCRIPTION

Hamlets, A Moor Lake and Desolate Trails - The first stage of the Ötztal Trek leads from Ötztal-Bahnhof to Dortmundener Hütte in Kühtai. Lake Brandsee – also known as Lake Ambergersee – is one of the highlights of the route which takes you along desolate trails and through picturesque hamlets. The trailhead is at the construction waste deposit site on the main road, just east of the town limits. Follow the signs to “Larchet, Mittelberg, Höpberg”. Soon you will get to a trail that climbs in switchbacks through the forest. Afterwards you follow the road to the hamlet of Larchet. Before you reach the chapel you make a right towards „Grün”. Continue to the turn-off to Höpberg – take a right and walk through meadows up to the houses of Grün from where you get great views of Inntal. In Grün follow the unsealed road and continue on it until it starts descending. Pick up the trail to your left which climbs through the forest before joining the road to Lake Brandsee (approx. 1,500 m). The lake is an

ideal place to enjoy a bite to eat and take a swim. Get back on the road and head towards “Sattelle” where you pick up the path to Marlstein (approx. 45 min.). From Marlstein continue in the same direction down to Marail. Take Kaiser-Franz-Josef Trail left of the road (make a left turn at the road fork in the forest). From here it's another 200 meter climb to Dortmundener Hütte. **Option:** spend the night in Marlstein or Marail. Walking time Ötztal-Bahnhof - Marlstein: approx. 4.75 hrs., add 30 minutes to get to Marail.



# Stage 2

MAP PAGE 11

**DORTMUNDER HÜTTE (1,949 M) → SCHWEINFURTER HÜTTE (2,028 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 4 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 850 meters climbing,  
approx. 800 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,777 m

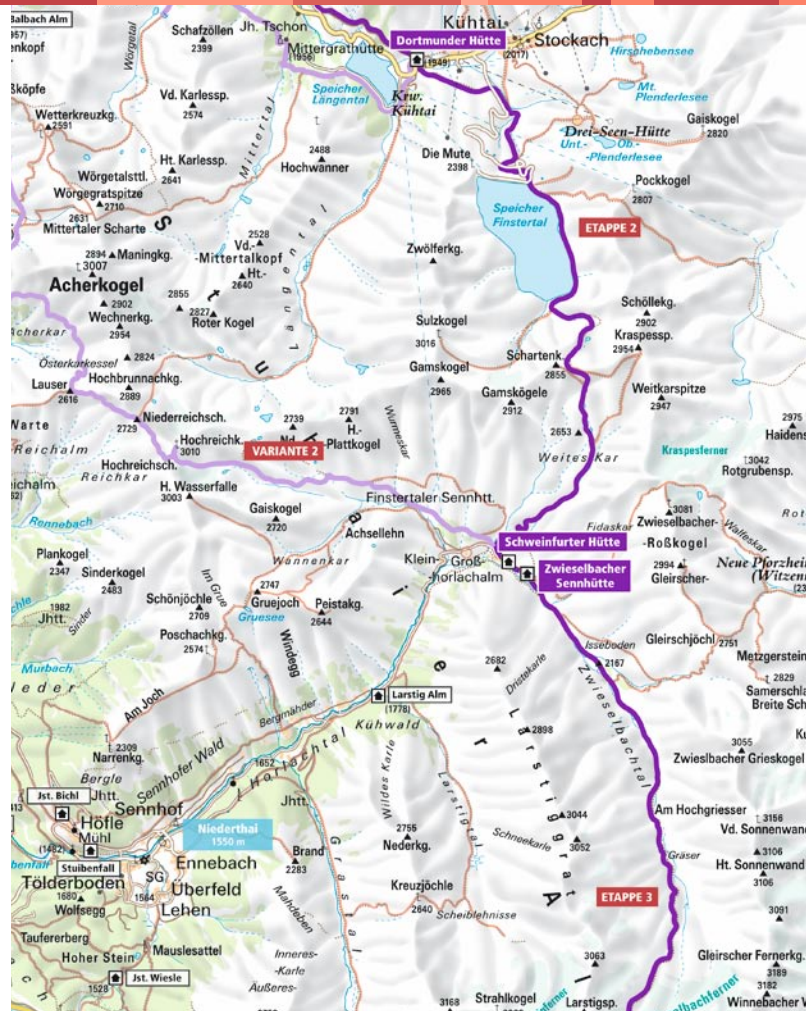
**Distance:** approx. 10 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Dortmund Hütte, Schweinfurter-Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** public bus from Oetz to Kühtai; from Niederthai (Umhausen) to Schweinfurter Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and approx. 1.5 hrs. down)

## DESCRIPTION

Like a Sea in the Alps - From Dortmund Hütte at the entrance to Kühtai you follow the signs to "Finstertaler Scharte" and/or "Schweinfurter Hütte". At first the route travels almost flat through beautiful pasturelands, later it climbs through the meadows east of the access road to Finstertaler Reservoir of which you can see the mighty, 149 meter tall dam. After a short but steep stretch you continue along the access road to the crest of the dam. Follow the footpath along the eastern shore of the reservoir which has a capacity of 60 million cubic meters. At the southern end of the reservoir the trail climbs steeply towards Finstertaler Scharte. The 2,777-meter high mountain pass affords spectacular views of the surrounding peaks including Wildspitze peak, North Tirol's highest mountain, and Mieminger Kette mountain chain. From the top of the pass the trail weaves down through meadows and pasturelands and then switchbacks down to Schweinfurter Hütte. The large refuge is beautifully nestled in the meeting point of Horlachal and Zwieselbachtal valleys.



# Stage 3

MAP PAGE 13

**SCHWEINFURTER HÜTTE (2,028 M) → WINNEBACHSEEHÜTTE (2,361 M)**

**Route:** road, steep path

**Requirements:** stamina; red mountain trail;

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 4,25 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 850 meters climbing, 500 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,868 m

**Distance:** approx. 10 km

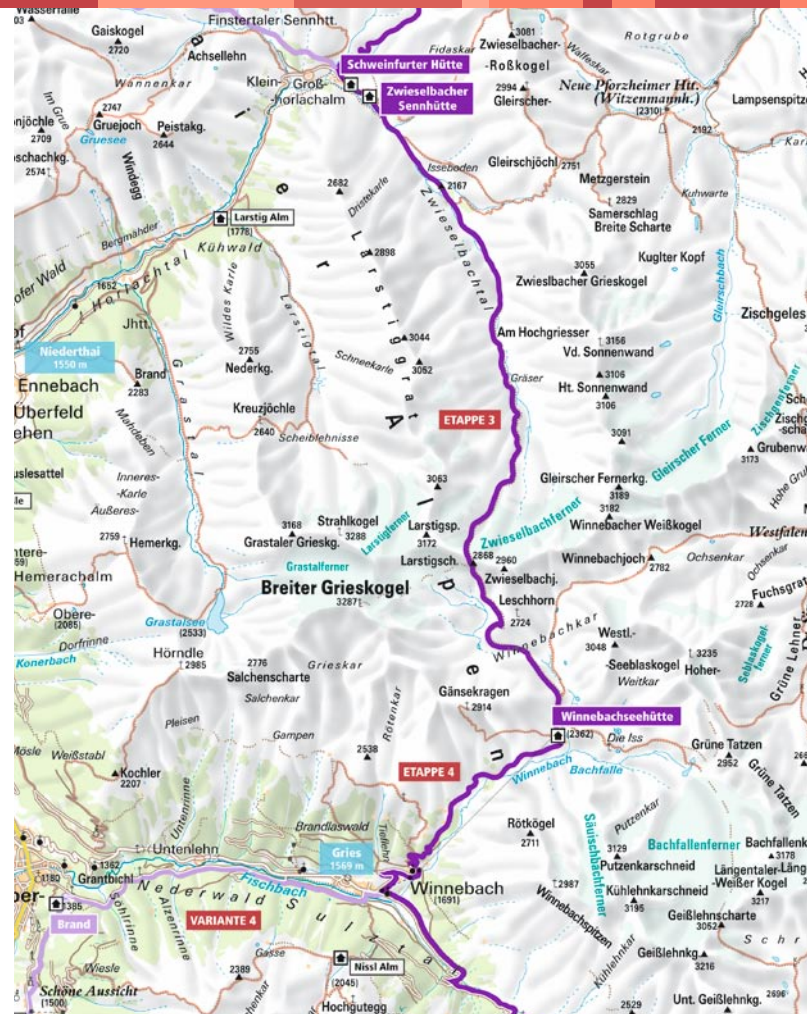
**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Zwieselbacher Sennhütte, Schweinfurter-Hütte, Winnebachseehütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Niederthai (Umhausen) to Schweinfurter Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down); from Gries im Sulztal (Längenfeld) to Winnebachseehütte (approx. 2.25 hrs. up and 1.75 hrs. down)

## DESCRIPTION

Through Zwieselbachtal - Take the road into Zwieselbachtal, following the signs to "Winnebachseehütte." Pass Zwieselbacher Sennhütte and continue through the woodless but verdant Zwieselbachtal valley. The road ends after 2,150 meters. Continue on the footpath which climbs gradually through rubble and boulders fields and crosses several terraces before reaching the lush green meadows in lower Zwieselbachtal where you can see steep scree slopes to your left and right.

The trail eventually climbs through a scree slope which can be a bit difficult and tiring as there is no signposted route leading across the gravel field. Don't be irritated by the sight of Zwieselbach Glacier: in the summer there is no ice or snow on the way to Zwieselbachjoch ridge which is located to the right of the glacier. To the west you can see mighty Breiter Grieskogel with its glacier. Once you have crossed the saddle the trail descends quickly during the first mile and then levels out as it reaches Winnebachkar basin. Cross the basin to get to Winnebachseehütte and the rushing mountain brook which meanders into the scenic high Alpine lake.



# STAGE 4

WINNEBACHSEEHÜTTE (2,361 M) →  
GRIES IM SULZTAL (1,569 M) → AMBERGER HÜTTE (2,136 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness; red mountain trail;

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 3.75 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 550 meters climbing, 800 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,361 m

**Distance:** approx. 11 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Winnebachseehütte, Vordere Sulztalalm, Amberger Hütte

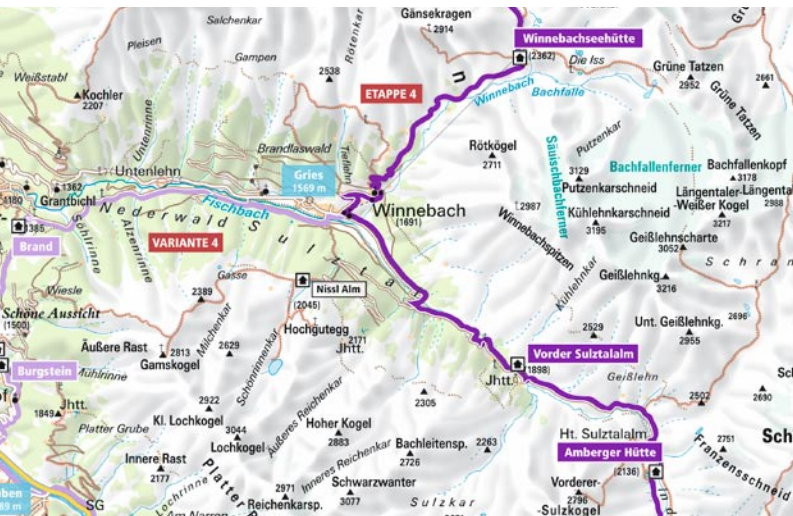
**Access/Exit points:** from Gries im Sulztal (Längenfeld) to Winnebachseehütte (approx. 2.25 hrs. up and 1.75 hrs. down); from Gries im Sulztal (Längenfeld) to Amberger Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)



Winnebachseehütte

## DESCRIPTION

A Side-Trip to a Charming Mountain Village - From quaint Winnebachseehütte the trail descends in switchbacks to the valley where a waterfall cascades down into the swiftly flowing Winnebach mountain brook. The trail continues to descend gently. Look out for strange stone formations which were carved by glaciers. Once you reach the forest the trail drops rather steeply to the houses of Winnebach where you continue on an asphalted road to the charming mountain village of Gries im Sulztal (approx. 1.75 hrs.). Leaving behind Gries the trail climbs steadily up through Sulztal. Follow the road into the forested valley and up to the beautiful pastures of Vordere Sulztalalm – an ideal place to enjoy a break and a sandwich. The mountain hut commands splendid views of 3,500-meter high Schrankogel which you will continue seeing until the end of the hike. After Vordere Sulztalalm the trail starts climbing rather steeply to Hintere Sulztalalm (which is not serviced) and on to Amberger Hütte which is tucked away behind a grassy hill, right opposite Schrankogel peak. From the hut you enjoy great views of Sulztalferner Glacier in the south.



## Stage 5 MAP PAGE 17

AMBERGER HÜTTE (2,136 M) →

WÜTENKARSATTEL (3,103 M) → HOCHSTUBAIHÜTTE (3,174 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition, high alpine experience; black mountain trail; partly high Alpine route

**Difficulties:** crevasses on Sulztal Glacier and Wütenkarferner; guide recommended

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, depending on snow conditions: icepick, crampons; rope absolutely required on the glacier

**Walking time:** approx. 4.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1.100 meters climbing, 100 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,174 m

**Distance:** approx. 8 km

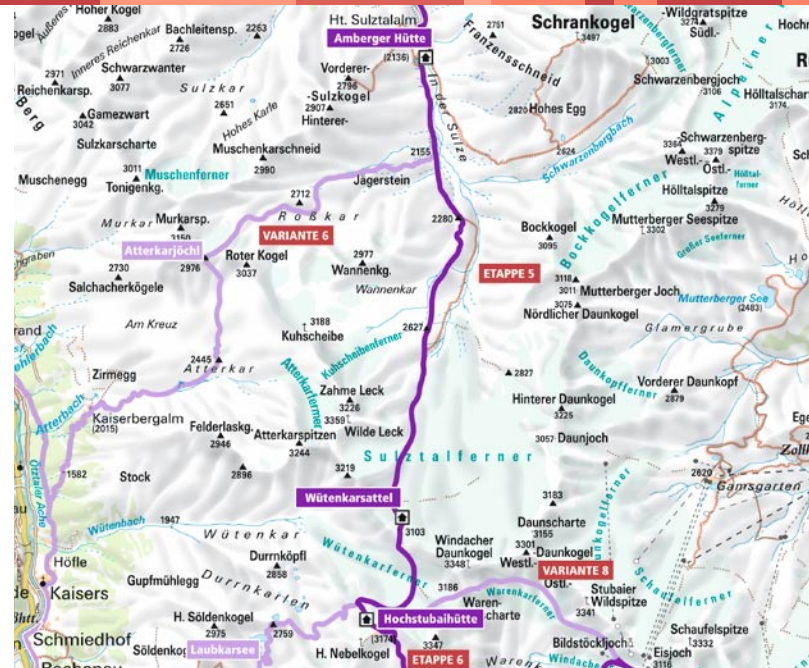
**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Amberger Hütte, Hochstubaiahütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Gries im Sulztal (Längenfeld) to Amberger Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down); from Sölden via Kleblealm and Lake Laubkarsee to Hochstubaiahütte (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); from Sölden via Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal and Lake Seekarsee to Hochstubaiahütte (approx. 5.5 hrs. up and 4.5 hrs. down); alternatively public bus to Kleblealm and Fiegl's Hütte from where it's a 3.5 hrs. climb to Hochstubaiahütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. descending) Bus schedules: call +43 (0) 57200 200

### DESCRIPTION

Glacier Tour To Hochstubaiahütte - This high alpine tour leads over glaciated fields to Hochstubaiahütte (almost 3,200 above sea level) from where you enjoy awe-inspiring views of the Central Alps.

From Amberger Hütte near Gries im Sulztal you first follow the flat valley trail along the brook in southern direction and then turn right into the trail up the hill. Keep to the right at the trail fork. The route continues climbing gently along the lateral moraine until you reach Sulztalferner Glacier. Time to rope up! Continue along the right edge of the glacier to the foot of Wilde Leck area and on to



Wütenkarsattel northwest of Windacher Daunkogel (watch out for crevasses in this section!). Once you have crossed the saddle you descend through crumbly, sliding rock rubble to Wütenkarferner Glacier and a small lake to your right. Here you discover a totally new dimension of high Alpine mountaineering! Keep slightly to the right when crossing the glacier which you leave at its western edge where you meet the trail from Sölden via scenic Lake Laubkarsee to Hochstubaiahütte. From here it's an easy ridge walk (100 meters climbing) to the Alpine hut on Wildkarspitze. Don't miss out on the truly breathtaking views of the Alpine scenery, which you can enjoy from this vantage point.

# Stage 6

HOCHSTUBAIHÜTTE (3,174 M) ->

SCHARTE AM WINDACHER FERNER -> HILDESHEIMER HÜTTE (2,900 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath, prepared trail on the glacier

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, high alpine experience; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** very steep ascent via Himmelsleiter

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, no glacier equipment required for Windacher Ferner and Gaiskarferner

**Walking time:** approx. 5.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 650 meters climbing, 900 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,174 m

**Distance:** approx. 7 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hochstubahütte, Restaurant Jochdohle, Hildesheimer Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Sölden via Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal and Seekarsee to Hochstubahütte (steep ascent, approx. 5.5 hrs. up and 4.5 hrs. down); from Sölden through Windachtal and along Aschenbrennerweg or Gaiskarweg (steep) to Hildesheimer Hütte (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); alternatively public bus to Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal from where it's a 3.5 hrs. climb to Hochstubahütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. descending) and a 3 hrs. climb to Hildesheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. down); Bus schedule: call +43 (0) 57200 200



Hochstubahütte

## DESCRIPTION

**Ice-Free Hut To Hut Hike** - This brand new stage leads from Hochstubahütte via Sölden to Hildesheimer Hütte. Although you walk amidst the glacier ski slopes of Stubai Glacier and the glacier snouts of Windacher Ferner and Gaiskarferner there is no real glacier crossing required. The reason is easy to explain: The local mountain lift companies prepare the walking routes also for hikers without glacier experience. From the hut we take the ascending route in reverse direction to the refuge above Lake Seekarsee, past a snowfield which is easily accessible all summer long. We reach the winding and steeply descending Himmelsleiter footpath which is secured with ropes and stone steps, leading along the exposed and boulder-strewn mountain flank. After this challenging section we continue on a level path towards the small shelter (the key can be found right next to the door), and further on to Lake Seekarsee along the precipitous path. Leaving behind the lake you turn left into the trail which follows the grass-covered slopes in eastern direction. Slightly descending you get to the green marshlands in the foothills of Warenkar. A winding route ascends to the higher ridge and continues in switchbacks to the steep edge of Windacher Ferner. You head towards the glacier for a bit, following the prepared and crevasse-free path leading up to Jochdohle Restaurant in the ski area. Cross Gaiskarferner on the other side and walk along the well prepared and crevasse-free route in south-eastern direction until you get - past boulders - to the mountain ridge. This trail takes you down to Hildesheimer Hütte.





## Stage 7 MAP PAGE 22

**HILDESHEIMER HÜTTE (2,900 M) →**  
**GAMSPLATZL (3,018 M) → SIEGERLANDHÜTTE (2,710 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath, prepared glacier trail

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 3.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 350 meters climbing, 550 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,018 m

**Distance:** approx. 5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hildesheimer Hütte, Siegerlandhütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Sölden through Windachtal and along Aschenbrennerweg or Gaiskarweg (steep) to Hildesheimer Hütte (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); from Sölden through Windachtal to Siegerlandhütte (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); alternatively public bus from Sölden to Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal from where it's a 3 hours climb to Hildesheimer Hütte and Siegerlandhütte (2 hrs. down either way);

Bus schedule: call +43 (0) 57200 200

**Tip of the day:** Windachscharte (2,846 m) from Siegerlandhütte (approx. 1 hr. up and 45 min. down; no glacier crossings); Requirements: surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

### DESCRIPTION

Mighty Zuckerhütl - Spectacular Gamsplatzl vista point and Lake Triebenkarsee are the highlights of this glacier-free tour from Hildesheimer Hütte to Siegerlandhütte, which is tucked away in one of the last corners of Windachtal.

From Hildesheimer Hütte you walk down for about 10 minutes until a trail branches off to the left. Follow this trail down to the rushing Gaiskarbach mountain brook. Continue across the moraine of famous Pfaffenferner and – sometimes steeply – through boulders and rubble to Gamsplatzl area (there is a short section with fixed cables for your safety).

This small viewing plateau with its many stone cairns provides an ideal place to take a rest and enjoy the marvelous views of the Stubai Alps with Zuckerhütl (at 3,507 meters the tallest peak in the Stubai Mountains) and the breathtaking Ötztal Alps. From the plateau the trail switchbacks steeply down to Lake Triebenkarsee (2,700 m) below the snout of Triebenkarlas Glacier. On the hottest of summer days there are usually some intrepid swimmers who are willing to dip themselves into this cool mountain lake ... The next stretch is easy and has only little elevation change. The trail crosses the steep slopes of Scheiblehn area and then climbs gently up to Siegerlandhütte.

# Stage 8

**SIEGERLANDHÜTTE (2,710 M) ->  
WINDACHTAL -> BRUNNENKOGELHAUS (2,738 M)**

**Route:** steep path, cartroad, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 4.25 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 800 meters climbing, 800 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,738 m

**Distance:** approx. 11 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Siegerlandhütte, Brunnenkogelhaus

**Access/Exit points:** from Sölden through Windachtal to Siegerlandhütte

(approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); from Sölden via Fiegl's Hütte in

Windachtal to Brunnenkogelhaus (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); alternatively public bus from Sölden to Fiegl's Hütte from where it's a 3 hrs. climb to

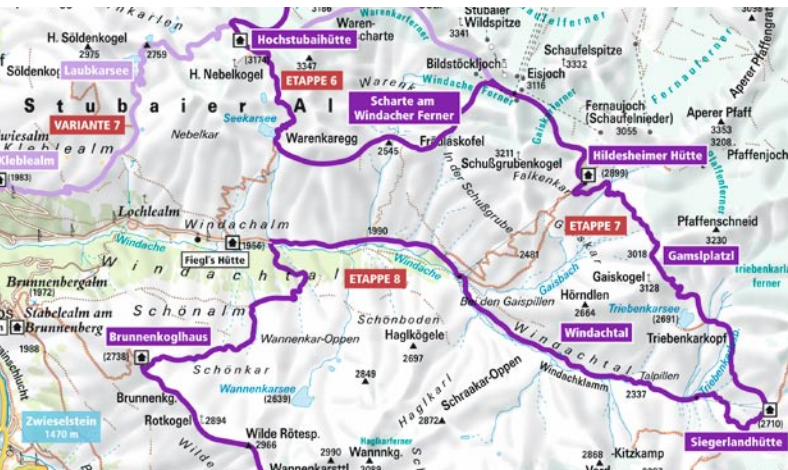
Siegerlandhütte and Brunnenkogelhaus (2 hrs. down either way);  
Bus schedule: call +43 (0) 57200 200



Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal

## DESCRIPTION

A Peak With A Hut - A lodge on a peak is the destination of this diverse and beautiful hike near Sölden. The small, comfortable and relatively new Brunnenkogelhaus stands on the summit of Vorderer Brunnenkogel (2,738 m) and commands superb views of the Ötztal and Stubai Alps. The starting point for this hike is Siegerlandhütte in the upper Windachtal. From the lodge you walk down to the base terminal of the goods lift and continue through Windachtal, circumventing a gorge to the right. At the goods lift of Hildesheimer Hütte you take the old road which descends moderately to a bridge (approx. 1,950 meters above sea level) which marks the last downhill part of this hike. Cross the mountain brook and follow the steep path in southern and/or south-eastern direction through a forest to the foothills of Schönkarschneid and continue westwards. The trail crosses Schönkar basin and circumvents a rocky outcrop (fixed cable). The last stretch of the trail is steeply up to a saddle from where it's only a few more minutes to Brunnenkogelhaus located on scenic Vorderer Brunnenkogel and its spectacular views.



# Stage 9

**BRUNNENKOGELHAUS (2,738 M) →**  
**HOCHSTUBAI - PANORAMAWEG → TIMMELSJOCH (2,474 M)**

**Route:** steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** exposed sections along the ridge; stable weather essential

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 400 meters climbing, 650 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,966 m

**Distance:** approx. 7.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Brunnenkogelhaus, Rasthaus am Timmelsjoch

**Access/Exit points:** from Sölden via Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal to Brunnenkogelhaus (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); alternatively public bus from Sölden to Fiegl's Hütte from where it's a 3 hrs. climb to Brunnenkogelhaus (approx. 2 hrs. down);

Buses to Fiegl's Hütte: call +43 (0) 57200 200;

Buses from Timmelsjoch to Obergurgl: call +43 (0) 57200 100



Brunnenkogelhaus

## DESCRIPTION

A Stunning High Elevation Trail - The Hochstubaui Panorama Trail from Brunnenkogelhaus to Timmelsjoch Pass is literally breathtaking. Since most of the trail rolls along a ridge top it affords resplendent 360-degree views of the surrounding peaks. The hike starts at Brunnenkogelhaus on the scenic summit of Vorderer Brunnenkogel. The trail climbs up to the narrow and partly exposed ridge of Hinterer Brunnenkogel, Rotkogel and (with one short downhill section) to Wilde Rötenspitze at 2,966 meters above sea level - which is the highest point of the route. Views include Ötztal's Wildspitze, North Tirol's highest mountain, majestic Weißkogel, and Zuckerhütl in the Stubai Alps.

On very clear days you can see as far as Zugspitze in Germany. Just as great is the view down on Lake Wannenkarsee, a beautiful and hard-to-get-to high Alpine mountain lake. From Wilde Rötenspitze you hike down to Wannenkarsattel where you leave the ridge and switchback down through steep and boulder-strewn terrain to Wannenkarcirque. Cross Wannenkarcirque, Röttenkar and Wietenkar. The trail leads past several small lakes, descending gently to the snack station on Timmelsjoch, a mountain pass between Austria and Val di Passiria in Italy. Take the public bus along the scenic Timmelsjoch panoramic road down to Obergurgl (1,907 m), Austria's highest parish.



# Stage 10

MAP PAGE 27

**OBERGURL (1,907 M) → LANGTALERECKHÜTTE (2,430 M) → HOCHWILDEHAUS (2,866 M) → RAMOLHAUS (3,005 M)**

**Route:** road, cartroad, steep path, path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** glacier sections on Gurgler Ferner (flat and no crevasses)

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment; no crampons, icepick or rope required for the glacier

**Walking time:** approx. 7 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,600 meters climbing, 500 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,005 m

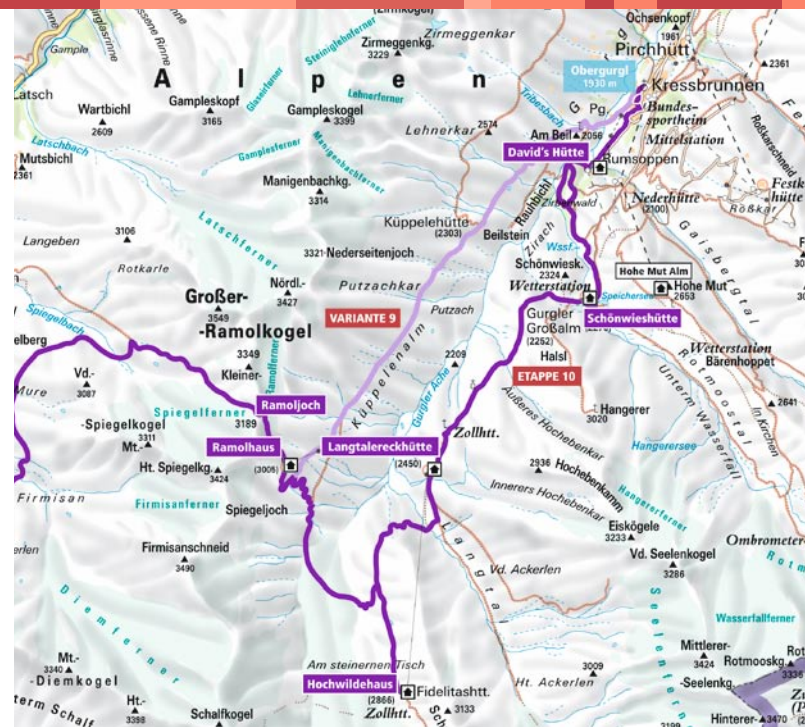
**Distance:** approx. 16 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** David's Hütte, Schönwieshütte, Hochwildehaus, Ramolhaus

**Access/Exit points:** from Obergurgl along Ramolweg to Ramolhaus (approx. 4 hrs. up and 3 hrs. down)

## DESCRIPTION

Diversity Rules - This hike offers lots of diversity. The route starts with a hike through a century-old pine forest, continues with a glacier crossing and ends at Ramolhaus at 3,005 meters above sea level. From the center of Obergurgl you walk into the valley to David's Hütte. There you continue on the themed Pine Forest Trail through the dense forest until you reach the road to Schönwieshütte. The road leads past the hut, winding slightly to the left, and – after a short downhill section – climbs gently through the slopes above Gurgler Tal to Langtalereckhütte (the last few meters are downhill again; hiking time to this point: approx. 2 hrs.). From the mountain hut the path drops down to Langtal, crosses the valley and climbs steeply to the moraine of Gurgler Glacier. Continue along the moraine parallel to the glacier to Hochwildehaus (approx. 2 hrs. from Langtalereckhütte). From Hochwildehaus retrace your steps down to approx. 2,700 meters above sea level where you descend to Gurgler Glacier. Cross the glacier in a northwestern direction at its lowest and flattest point (no trail signs). Once you have crossed the glacier fields there is a steep ledge with



metal rungs to help you along. The trail then travels slightly uphill for a bit before climbing in steep switchbacks up the slope where it joins the access trail from Obergurgl to Ramolhaus. Continue to Ramolhaus. The last section of the trail also has steep switchbacks all the way to the top. The steep, strenuous ascent is rewarded by awe-inspiring panoramic views of Obergurgl's peaks and glaciers.

# Stage 11

RAMOLHAUS (3,005 M) →

RAMOLJOCH (3,189 M) → MARTIN-BUSCH-HÜTTE (2,501 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath, road, cartroad

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** the trail is equipped with fixed cables and metal rungs all the way to Ramoljoch

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 6 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 700 meters climbing, 1,200 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,189 m

**Distance:** approx. 11.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Ramolhaus, Martin-Busch-Hütte,

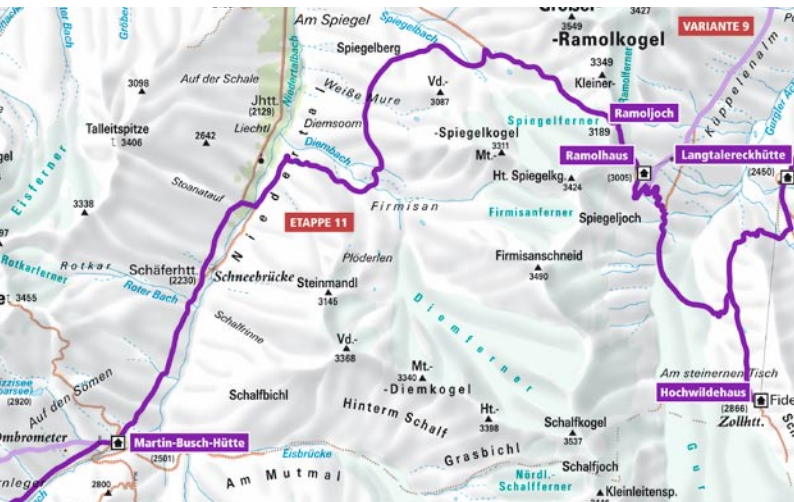
**Access/Exit points:** from Obergurgl along Ramolweg to Ramolhaus (approx. 4 hrs. up and 3 hrs. down); from Vent through Niedertal to Martin-Busch-Hütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down)



Ramolhaus

## DESCRIPTION

Across Ramoljoch To Niedertal - This high alpine route takes you from the scenic mountains surrounding Gurgl across Ramoljoch to Niedertal, a beautiful alpine valley that starts in the mountain village of Vent. The breathtaking views make it difficult to leave Ramolhaus but there is no need to worry: the panoramic views from Ramoljoch are just as spectacular! From Ramolhaus climb a few meters up before descending to the dead ice of Ramolferner. Continue through the scree field in a northern direction before crossing the ice (usually you can "boulder-hop" your way through the field). The next section is steep and uses fixed cables and metal rungs to assist your ascent through boulders, slabs and rubble areas. But once at the top you are treated to great views of Gurgler Ferner and Wildspitze peak! From here the trail switchbacks down quickly, then runs along the lateral moraine of Spiegelferner Glacier. Continue until you get to a trail junction at approx. 2,800 meters above sea level. There turn left towards Martin-Busch-Hütte. The trail then climbs moderately to a saddle and continues through gentle pasturelands and the slopes above Niedertal to Diembach Brook and down to the valley. Hike into the valley for a few meters, cross Niedertalbach Brook and follow the moderately ascending road and/or cartroad to Martin-Busch-Hütte.



# Stage 12

MAP PAGE 31

MARTIN-BUSCH-HÜTTE (2,501 M) → SIMILAUHÜTTE (3,017 M)

**Route:** steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 2 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 500 meters climbing

**Highest point:** 3,017 m

**Distance:** approx. 4.5 km

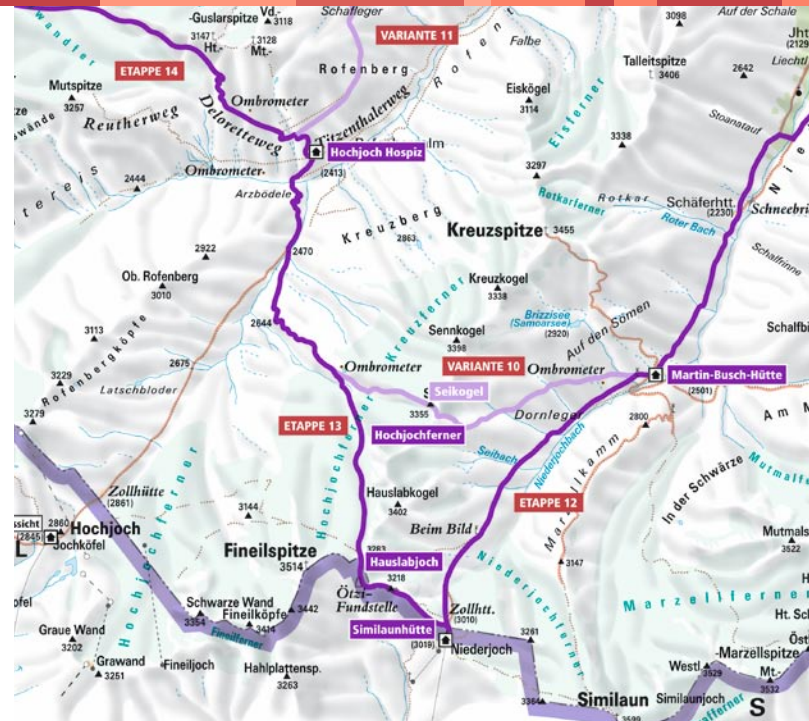
**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Martin-Busch-Hütte, Similaunhütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Vent through Niedertal to Martin-Busch-Hütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down)

**Tip of the day:** Similaun (3,599m) from Similaunhütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 1½ hrs. down); glacier tour, surefootedness, good head for heights, high alpine experience required; rope is a must on the glacier (crevasses) and along the ridge; usually icepick and crampons; black mountain trail; guide recommended

## DESCRIPTION

A Side-Trip to South Tirol - Similaunhütte, a privately-owned refuge, is located at 3,017 meters above sea level, on the South Tirolean side of Niederjoch, a mountain pass between Tirol's Ötztal and South Tirol's Schnalstal. Similaunhütte and Similaun owe their fame to the Iceman, also called Similaun Man, who was discovered in 1991, eroding out of the glacier on Tisenjoch (about 1.25 hrs. walk from the hut). Many know the lodge also from the annual Large Trek where thousands of sheep are driven from Schnalstal to the pastures in Niedertal and back. On their way the animals and shepherds walk past Similaunhütte. The tour from Martin-Busch-Hütte to Similaunhütte leads into Niedertal valley along Niederjochbach Brook. The trail then climbs gently through moraines. From Seibach Brook you stay on the moraine ridge all the way to



“Bild” area. After “Bild” the trail continues without much elevation change to the glacier. Usually hikers had to cross Niederjochferner, but since 2008 there is a new trail circumventing it. This blazed trail leads west of Niederjochferner to Similaunhütte. The last section of this trail is rather steep.

# Stage 13

MAP PAGE 31

**SIMILAUHNHÜTTE (3,017 M) -> HAUSLABJOCH (3,283 M) ->  
HOCHJOCHFERNER -> HOCHJOCH HOSPIZ (2,412 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition, high alpine experience; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** crevasses on Hochjochferner; guide recommended

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, icepick and crampons depending on snow conditions; rope absolutely required on the glacier

**Walking time:** approx. 5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 450 meters climbing, 1,050 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,283 m

**Distance:** approx. 7.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Similaunhütte, Hochjoch Hospiz

**Access/Exit points:** from Vent through Niedertal to Martin-Busch-Hütte and on to Similaunhütte (approx. 4.5 hrs. up and 3.75 hrs. down); from Vent through Rofental to Hochjoch Hospiz (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down)



Otzi Fundstelle

## DESCRIPTION

Hiking with the Iceman - The site where the Iceman was found on Tisenjoch is the highlight of this hike which leads into Vent's high alpine regions, across Hochjochferner from Similaunhütte to Hochjoch Hospiz. From the refuge a trail climbs steeply up a wide ridge which later turns into a moderately steep boulder ridge which is never really narrow but still has some fixed cables for assistance. The last section of the trail to Tisenjoch saddle (3,218 m) in South Tirol, takes you through wider and flatter terrain again, with some short downhill sections. Once you have reached Tisenjoch the trail climbs for another 100 meters to Hauslabjoch (approx. 1.5 hrs. from Similaunhütte, no ice on the way) before descending in northern direction. The trail leaves the glacier at approx. 3,000 meters above sea level, at approx. 2,950 meters the trail joins the path coming down from Seikogel summit. Continue on this path which descends moderately at the beginning and then steeply at the end, to Rofental. Cross Hochjochbach Brook at approx. 2,500 meters above sea level. After a rather flat stretch the path once more descends in steep switchbacks to another brook coming down from Hintereisferner. The path crosses the waters and climbs for another 100 meters before reaching Hochjoch Hospiz beautifully located on the opposite slope.

# Stage 14

MAP PAGE 35

HOCHJOCH HOSPIZ (2,412 M) → BRANDENBURGER HAUS (3,274 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, high alpine experience; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** crevasses on Kesselwandferner; guide recommended

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, crampons and icepick depending on snow conditions; rope required on the glacier

**Walking time:** approx. 3.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 850 meters climbing

**Highest point:** 3,274 m

**Distance:** approx. 5.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hochjoch Hospiz, Brandenburger Haus

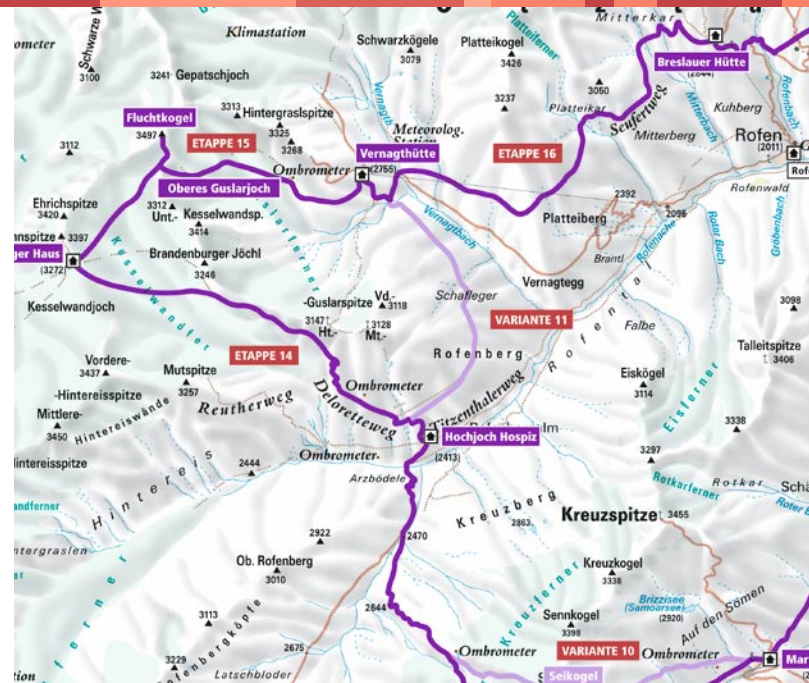
**Access/Exit points:** from Vent through Rofental to Hochjoch Hospiz (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down)

**Tip of the day:** Dahmannspitze (3,397m) from Brandenburger Haus (approx. 30 min. up and 20 min. down); surefootedness, good head for heights required; The route runs through a snow-covered ice field – no crevasses; usually no icepick and/or crampons required; black mountain trail

**Remark:** superb sunset hike

## DESCRIPTION

A Majestic Glacier Castle - Brandenburger Haus at 3,274 meters above sea level is perched on the edge of a rock above Kesselwandferner Glacier, amid spectacular mountain scenery. Ötztal Alps' highest refuge is often nicknamed "glacier castle". All routes to Brandenburger Haus lead through glacier ice fields and snouts: The hike from Hochjoch Hospiz to Brandenburger Haus takes you across Kesselwandferner. From Hochjoch Hospiz the trail first climbs in leisurely switchbacks through the rather steep meadows before it gets really steep. The well-maintained trail then continues through a steep and rocky slope without any altitude gain and then climbs steeply once more. The views down to the crevasse and icefalls of Kesselwandferner are simply spectacular! At approx. 3,000 meters you reach the relatively flat and crevasse-free glacier area. The route through the glacier is fairly easy to follow thanks Thomas Pirpamer,



the local hut keeper who marked it with long poles. Nonetheless: roping-up is essential here! It takes about an hour to cross the glacier fields in a western/northwestern direction. The last section of the tour takes you through boulders up to Brandenburger Haus which affords spectacular panoramic views. Weißkogel, Tirol's most beautiful mountain according to some, is only one of the countless peaks you can see from the refuge.

# Stage 15

MAP PAGE 35

**BRANDENBURGER HAUS (3,274 M) -> OBERES GUSLARJOCH (3,361 M -> FLUCHTKOGEL (3,497 M) -> VERNAGHTHÜTTE (2,755 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, high alpine experience; black mountain trail, partly high alpine terrain

**Difficulties:** sections across Kesselwandferner, Guslarferner and a glacier slope from the saddle to Fluchtkogel (crevasses!); guide recommended

**Equipment:** crampons, icepick, rope required

**Walking time:** approx. 4.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 250 meters climbing, 800 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,497 m

**Distance:** approx. 5.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Brandenburger Haus, Vernagthütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Vent through Rofental to Hochjoch Hospiz, from Hochjoch Hospiz along Deloretweg via Kesselwandferner to Brandenburger Haus (approx. 6 hrs. up and 4.5 hrs. down); from Vent via Vernagtegg to Vernagthütte (approx. 3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down)



Vernagthütte

## DESCRIPTION

The Glacier Castle and a Spectacular Summit - This tour in the Vent region leads almost entirely through glacier ice and up to a spectacular summit: from Oberes Guslarjoch Ridge it's only another 150 meters up to 3,497-meter tall Fluchtkogel peak which offers views you really shouldn't miss! What's more, this is one of the few chances to climb easily an awe-inspiring 3,000 meters of altitude change) through boulders and rubble to Kesselwandferner and crosses the glacier in a northeastern direction towards Oberes Guslarjoch – the last part is a quite steep. From Guslarjoch you continue up along the right edge of the moderately steep glacier slope. After about 30 minutes you will reach the summit of Fluchtkogel where you are rewarded with unforgettable panoramic views and a new summit cross. Backtrack to Oberes Guslarjoch and through steep terrain down to Guslarferner Glacier. The trail levels out and continues flat across the first glacier until you reach a hill which has to be climbed (beware of crevasses here!). After another steep slope the trail descends in a south-eastern direction, leaving behind Guslarferner at approx. 3,000 meters above sea level. The last part of the trail takes you through moraine terrain and along the moraine ridge down to Vernagthütte.



## Stage 16 MAP PAGE 35

**VERNAGHTÜTTE (2,755 M) -> BRESLAUER HÜTTE (2,844 M)**

**Route:** steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 2 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 300 meters climbing and 250 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,860 m

**Distance:** approx. 7 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Vernagthütte, Breslauer Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Vent via Vernagtegg to Vernagthütte (approx. 3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down); from Stablein top terminal of Wildspitze chairlift (Vent) to Breslauer Hütte (approx. 1.5 hrs. up and 1.25 hrs. down)

**Tip of the day:** Urkundholm (3,134 m) from Breslauer Hütte (approx. 1 hr. up and 45 min. down); surefootedness and a good head for heights required; red mountain trail

### DESCRIPTION

Hiking Above Rofental - Vernagthütte stands on a lateral moraine of Großer Vernagtferner Glacier. From the refuge follow Seufertweg Trail to Breslauer Hütte at the foot of Ötztal's Wildspitze peak. Most of the time the trail winds along the slopes above Rofental. From Vernagthütte you walk down and continue on a trail that branches off to your left, descending towards Vernagtbach Brook. From here you have superb views of Großer Vernagtferner Glacier with Hochvernagtspitze peak to the north/northwest, and a wonderful interplay of colors with green meadows in the valley, auburn rocks (e.g. the steep rock face below Hochvernagtspitze) and whitish-gray ice fields. Cross Vernagtbach Brook and continue to the flat meadows on Platteiberg slope. The trail crosses Platteikar cirque and rolls up and down through Mitterkar. Just above Mitterkar you can see Ötztal's Wildspitze, which looks unusually rocky from this angle. From here it's only a few more meters down to Breslauer Hütte. The beautifully located refuge affords fantastic views of Kreuzspitze, Hochjochferner and majestic Weißkogel.

# Stage 17

MAP PAGE 42

BRESLAUER HÜTTE (2,844 M) → RESTAURANT TIEFENBACH (2,789 M) →  
RETTENBACHJOCH (2,990 M) → BRAUNSCHWEIGER HÜTTE (2,758 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition, high alpine experience; black mountain trail;

**Difficulties:** glacier sections, crevasses on Rettenbachferner; no trail signs; guide recommended

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, crampons and icepick depending on snow conditions; rope required on the glacier

**Walking time:** approx. 7.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 650 meters climbing, 750 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,056 m

**Distance:** approx. 15 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Breslauer Hütte, Braunschweiger Hütte, Restaurant Tiefenbach – T +43 (0) 5254 5010

**Access/Exit points:** from Stablein top terminal of Wildspitze chairlift (Vent) to Breslauer Hütte (approx. 1.5 hrs. up and 1.25 hrs. down); from the base terminal of Rettenbachferner via Rettenbachjoch or Pitztaler Jöchl to Braunschweiger Hütte (1.75 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)

Buses between Tiefenbachferner and Rettenbachferner:  
call +43 (0) 57200 200

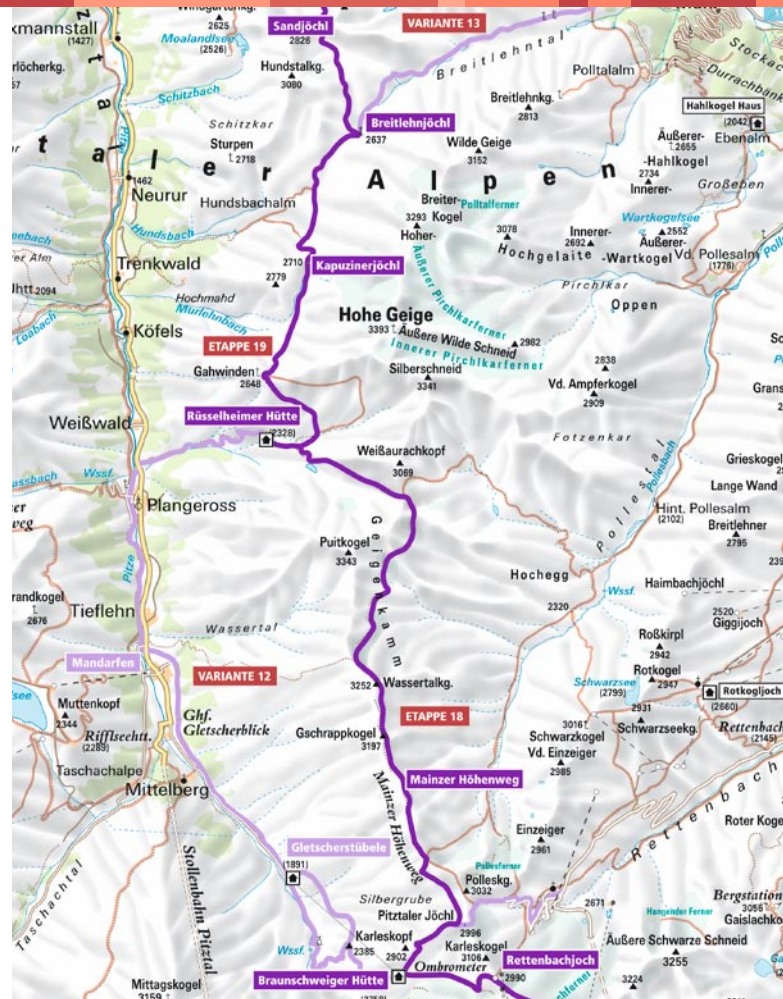
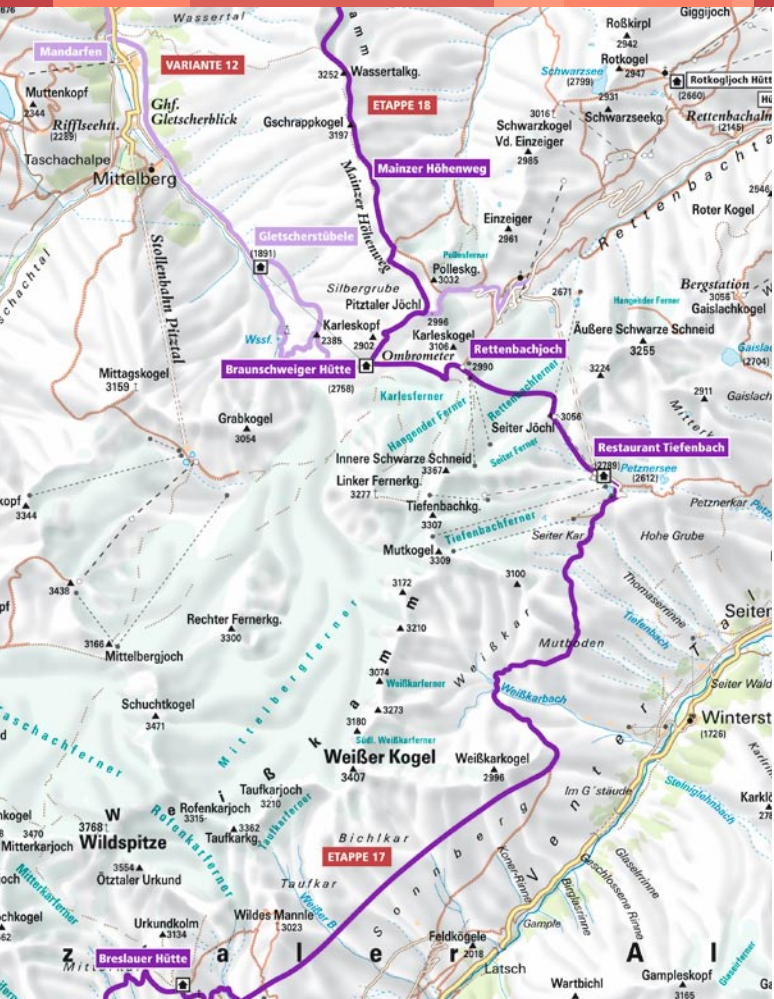


Breslauer Hütte

## DESCRIPTION

Through Glaciers Above Vent - The hike from Breslauer Hütte via Vent to Braunschweiger Hütte at the end of Pitztal, is a truly long and exhausting one. Leaving Breslauer Hütte the trail drops steeply and levels out in the foothills of Rofenkar cirque. A bit further down take the new high elevation trail to your left which later joins the old scenic trail between Vent and Tiefenbachferner Glacier. The path descends for a short stretch before climbing gently through Weißkar and Seiterkar to Restaurant Tiefenbach on Tiefenbach glacier (approx. 4 hrs.). At the restaurant you make a left turn in front of the tunnel and hike up the ski slope to Seiterjöchel (simply follow Seiterjöchel chairlift). From Seiterjöchel you head in a northern direction down towards Rettenbachferner. You make a left turn around a rocky promontory and continue in a northwestern direction without great altitude changes to the lift stations on Rettenbachjoch (end of the glacier section). From Rettenbachjoch the trail drops down steeply and levels out before reaching scenic Braunschweiger Hütte.

**Option:** by bus from Restaurant Tiefenbach to the base terminal of Rettenbach glacier; walk to the upper parking area and hike up to Pitztaler Jöchl (2,996 m) – the last part of the trail takes you across a crevasse-free glacier field (crampons might be useful); from Pitztaler Jöchl it's an easy walk down to Braunschweiger Hütte; walking time from the base terminal of Rettenbach glacier: approx. 1.75 hrs. If Pitztaler Jöchl is closed: from the upper parking area hike to Rettenbachjoch (easy glacier section on the last few meters); walking time from the base terminal to the hut: approx. 1.75 hours.



# Stage 18

MAP PAGE 43

BRAUNSCHWEIGER HÜTTE (2,758 M) →

MAINZER HÖHENWEG → RÜSSELSHEIMER HÜTTE (2,328 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition, high alpine experience; black mountain trail; partly high alpine route

**Difficulties:** extremely long tour, crevasses on the glacier, some sections are equipped with fixed ropes; stable weather conditions essential; guide recommended

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment; rope, crampons and icepick depending on snow conditions

**Walking time:** approx. 10 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 800 meters climbing, 1,200 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,252 m

**Distance:** approx. 9 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Braunschweiger Hütte, Rüsselsheimer H. – T +43 (0) 664 2808 107

**Access/Exit points:** from the base terminal of Rettenbachferner via Rettenbachjoch to Braunschweiger Hütte (approx. 1.75 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down); from Plangeross (St. Leonhard im Pitztal) to Rüsselsheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)



Braunschweiger Hütte

## DESCRIPTION

**Ibex Goulash & A Strenuous Hike** - This scenic high elevation trail from Braunschweiger Hütte to Rüsselsheimer Hütte allows you to “collect” several summits in one go: The hike takes you across 3 three-thousand meter high peaks, all of which command magnificent views of the alpine scenery. One mountain that remains within sight all times is Ötztal’s Wildspitze, North Tirol’s tallest mountain. The hike starts with a short uphill section from Braunschweiger Hütte. Follow the new trail to your left down to Silbergrube (a small corn-snow field). The trail now climbs up to a wide ridge along which it travels for a while, climbing and descending frequently. The first splendid peaks along the way are Wurmsitzkogel (3,079 m) and Gschrappkogel (3,197 m), and last comes Wassertalkogel (3,252m), the tour’s undisputed highlight. On top of Wassertalkogel mountaineers find an orange bivouac which accommodates up to 12 people. From Wassertalkogel the trail descends through a glacier field (at the beginning you can – and should – circumvent the glacier to the left). Soon after the first glacier field the trail crosses another one, then climbs steeply through a chute and crosses a third, very flat and easy, glacier field. After some easy scrambling the trail continues to Weißmaurachjoch ridge (2,953 m) – once there you have mastered all the difficult parts of this tour. From Weißmaurachkar it’s an easy walk down to Rüsselsheimer Hütte where you can refuel with a truly unique culinary specialty: ibex goulash – Enjoy your meal!



Rüsselsheimer Hütte

# Stage 19

MAP PAGE 47

**RÜSSELSEIMER HÜTTE (2,328 M) → KAPUZINERJÖCHL (2,710 M) → BREITLEHNJÖCHL (2,637 M) → SANDJÖCHL (2,826 M) → LUIBISSCHART (2,914 M) → HAUSERSEEHÜTTE (2,383 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition and stamina; black mountain trail; partly high alpine terrain

**Difficulties:** strenuous ascent to Luibisscharte, glacier section (no crevasses) at Hauerferner; stable weather conditions essential

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, icepick and crampons depending on snow conditions

**Walking time:** approx. 7 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,200 meters climbing and 1,200 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,914 m

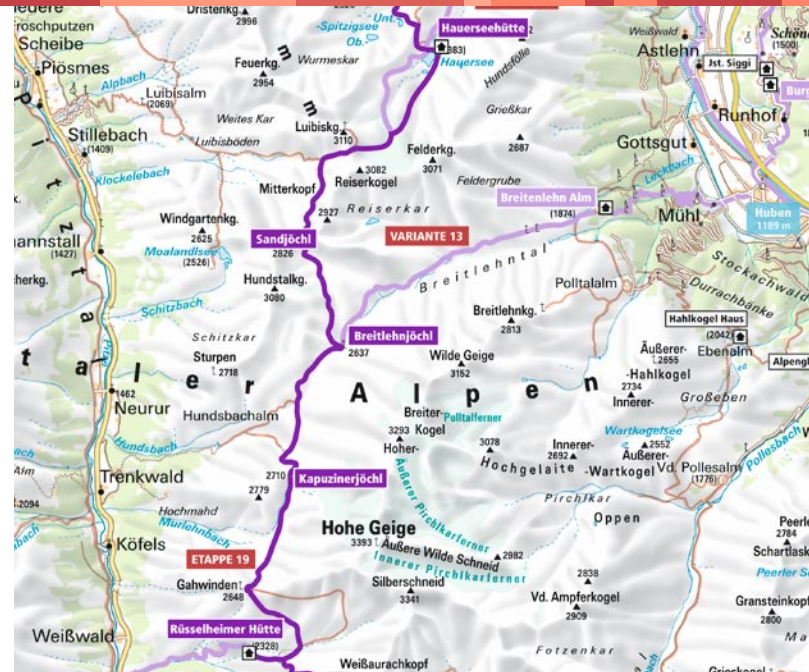
**Distance:** approx. 10.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Rüsselsheimer Hütte – T +43 (0) 664 2808 107, Hauerseehütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Plangeross (St. Leonhard im Pitztal) to Rüsselsheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down); from Unterried or Oberried (Längenfeld) to Hauerseehütte (approx. 3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down either way)

## DESCRIPTION

Saddles and a Small Glacier - This hike along Geigenkamm ridge takes you across several saddles. From the refuge walk down in an eastern direction, make a left turn towards Gahwinden vista point (parts of the trail are equipped with fixed cables). From Gahwinden the trail descends through scree fields to Rötkarle and then ascends moderately, later steeply, to Kapuzinerjöchel (also known as Rötkarljoch). Beyond Kapuzinerjöchel the trail drops down through steep and rocky terrain (there are fixed cables to hold on to for safety) before leveling out and climbing leisurely towards Breitlehnojch. From Breitlehnojch the trail first climbs, then descends, then climbs again towards Sandjochl – Attention, the last part is very steep! From Sandjochl the trail falls steeply and flattens out a bit before climbing through a very steep scree and boulder field to Luibisscharte. Past Luibisscharte the path descends to crevasse-free



Hauerferner Glacier and crosses it in an eastern direction. The trail between the glacier and Hauerseehütte has been closed off due to a rockslide – a bypass trail follows the glacier in a north-eastern direction and then descends to the right of a rocky knoll to Hauerseehütte mountain inn. The old route (use at own risk) descends steeply and straight down the glacier before making a left and zigzagging down to Hauerseehütte. Alternatively you can avoid the glacier section by following the rock ribbon below Luibiskogel.

## Stage 20 MAP PAGE 49

**HAUSERSEEHÜTTE (2,383 M) →**

**FELDERJÖCHL(2,797 M) → FRISCHMANNHÜTTE (2,192 M)**

**Route:** steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment; enough food and drink (Hauerseehütte is not serviced)

**Walking time:** approx. 4 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 600 meters climbing, 800 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,797 m

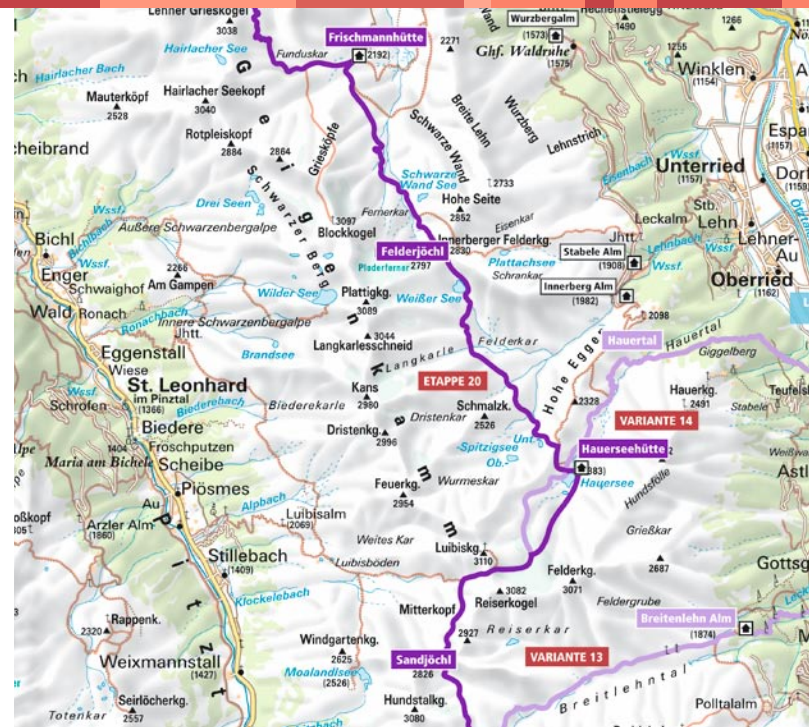
**Distance:** approx. 7.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hauerseehütte, Frischmannhütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Unterried or Oberried (Längenfeld) to Hauerseehütte (approx. 3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down either way); from Umhausen to Frischmannhütte (approx. 3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down); alternatively taxi from Umhausen to Hintere Fundusalm from where it's a 30 min. hike to Frischmannhütte; from Köfels (Umhausen) to Frischmannhütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down); Taxi Scharfetter – T +43 (0) 5255 5858

### DESCRIPTION

Lake Hike on Mittlerer Geigenkamm - This scenic hike from Hauerseehütte to lovely Frischmannhütte features great views and picturesque lakes. The first of these lakes is right at Hauerseehütte. The self-catering hut (checked by the hut keeper on a regular basis during peak season in summer) can be found below Luibiskogel and was built to replace the original refuge which was devastated by an avalanche. At first the trail descends past Lake Unterer Spitzigsee, then climbs gently in a north-western direction through Innerbergtal valley and crosses the slopes above Felderker. Then follows a more strenuous section: The trail switchbacks steeply up to Lake Weißer See below Felderjöchl (2,800 m), the saddle you have to cross to get to Frischmannhütte. The foot-



path travels to the left of the lake and climbs through very steep and rocky terrain to Felderjöchl (fixed cables). From the saddle the trail drops steeply and then levels out and continues through Fernerkar below Ploderferner Glacier. Later on the trail descends quickly east of Griesköpfe peaks and through high alpine meadows and pasturelands to Frischmannhütte.

# Stage 21

MAP PAGE 51

FRISCHMANNHÜTTE (2,192 M) →

FUNDUSFEILER (3,079 M) → ERLANGER HÜTTE (2,541 M)

**Route:** steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 6 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,250m climbing, 900m descending

**Highest point:** 3,079 m

**Distance:** approx. 10 km

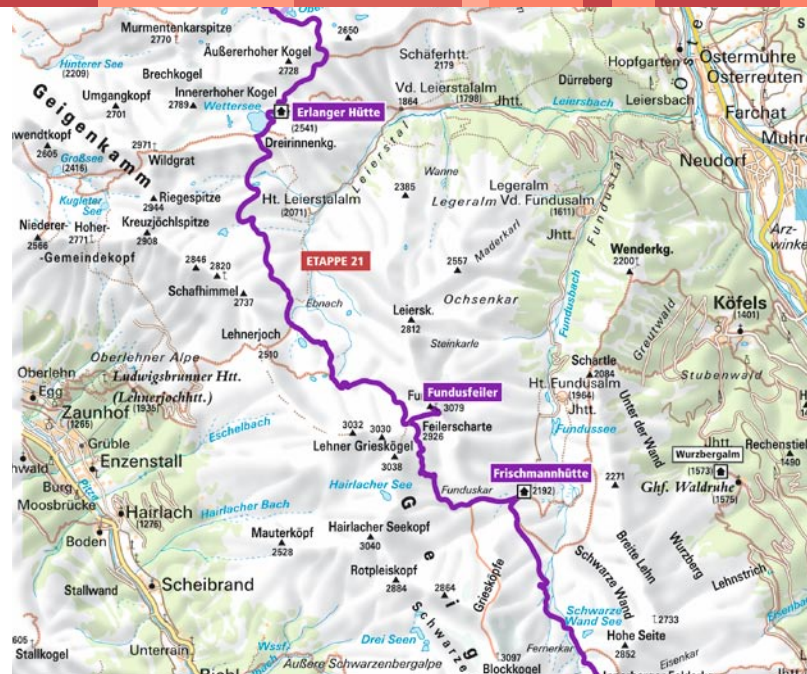
**Logging, refreshment stops:** Frischmannhütte, Erlanger Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Umhausen to Frischmannhütte (approx. 3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down); alternatively taxi from Umhausen to Hintere Fundusalm from where it's a 30 min. hike to Frischmannhütte); from Köfels (Umhausen) to Frischmannhütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down); from Umhausen to Erlanger Hütte (approx. 4.5 hrs. up and 3.5 hrs. down); alternatively taxi from Umhausen to Vordere Leierstalalm from where it's another 2 hrs. to Erlanger Hütte and approx. 1.5 hrs. down; Taxi Scharfetter – T +43 (0) 5255 5858

**Tip of the day:** Wildgrat (2,971m) from Erlanger Hütte (approx. 1.5 hrs. up and 1.25 hrs. down); surefootedness and a good head for heights required; black mountain trail

## DESCRIPTION

A 3,000 Meter High Peak and A Mountain Lake - On the splendid hike from Frischmannhütte to Erlanger Hütte you are strongly recommended to climb 3,079-meter tall Fundusfeiler peak which affords superb views of the surrounding summits and mountain chains. From the refuge the trail rolls through meadows to Funduskar cirque and then switchbacks up steeply to Fundusrinne and on to Feilerscharte (2,926 m). On the way up you have to scramble past two rock overhangs which have fixed cables for you to hold on. A wide and easy ridge walk takes you to the peak of Fundusfeiler (approx. 30 min.



from Feilerscharte). Backtrack to Feilerscharte, then head in northern direction through scree and boulder areas down to “Schwarzes Loch”. At the fork, make a right turn and continue westwards through gently rolling alpine meadows and pasturelands. Later on the trail climbs in switchbacks to a mountain dip past which you can already see crystal-clear Wettersee, one of the Ötztal’s most pristine mountain lakes. From the lake it’s a only a few more minutes to Erlanger Hütte. The refuge is set on the edge of a plateau which is flanked by mighty peaks on three sides.

# Stage 22

MAP PAGE 54

**ERLANGER HÜTTE (2,541 M) -> FORCHHEIMER WEG ->  
MAISALM (1,631 M) -> ÖTZTAL-BAHNHOF (704)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath, (sealed) road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition and stamina; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none; stable weather conditions essential

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 9 hrs; 2-day hike

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 500 meters climbing, 2,350 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,660 m

**Distance:** approx. 19 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Erlanger Hütte,

Maisalm - T +43 (0) 664 9855 181

**Access/Exit points:** from Umhausen to Erlanger Hütte (approx. 4.5 hrs. up and 3.5 hrs. down); alternatively taxi from Umhausen to Vorderer Leierstalalm from where it takes 2 hrs. up to Erlanger Hütte and about 1.5 hrs. down;

Taxi Scharfetter - T +43 (0) 5255 5858



Erlanger Hütte

## DESCRIPTION

Two Days On Vorderer Geigenkamm - If it wasn't for Maisalm above Roppen in Oberinntal where you can spend the night on your way between Erlanger Hütte to Ötztal-Bahnhof you would be forced to climb down 2,350 meters in one day ...

From Erlanger Hütte the trail descends via Umhausen, crosses a few slopes, climbs up to a ridge and drops steeply down to Tumpen Tal valley. Cross the valley and climb to Murmentenkarjoch between Weiter Karkopf and Murmentenkar Spitze. Past Murmentenkarjoch col the trail descends in a northern direction and travels along a ridge down to the small Forchheimer bothy at 2,443 m (a basic mountain shelter left unlocked and available for anyone to use without charge; sleeps four persons; walking time from Erlanger Hütte: 3 hrs.).

The trail contours along the ridge to Hahnenkamm area which is circumvented through a scree field to the east. Mutzeiger is the next landmark on this scenic hike along Vorderer Geigenkamm. From Mutzeiger the route heads down to Mutkopf peak and to Muthütte (not serviced) where you leave the ridge. Continue down until you reach a cartroad and follow it to Maisalm hut (approx. 6 hrs. from Erlanger Hütte; walking times in the information block refer to the entire stage) where you spend the night (advance booking absolutely required!). The next day you continue along a road, then a footpath, then a road again to the village of Roppen. In Roppen you follow the road parallel to the rail tracks in an eastern direction, from Ötztaler Ache River you continue on the Ötztal Mountain Bike Trail until you get to Ötztal-Bahnhof.



# Variation 1

ÖTZTAL-BAHNHOF (704 M) → SAUTENS (812 M) → OETZ (812 M) →  
ACHERBERGALM (1,893 M) → BIELEFELDER HÜTTE (2,112 M)

**Route:** footpath, (sealed) road, steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good physical condition; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 6 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,450 meters climbing

**Highest point:** 2,112 m

**Distance:** approx. 12,5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Acherbergalm, Bielefelder Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Hochoetz to Bielefelder Hütte (approx. 20 min.

up and 15 min. down); Acherkogel lift from Oetz to Hochoetz

Acherkogel mountain gondola: open from June to early October,

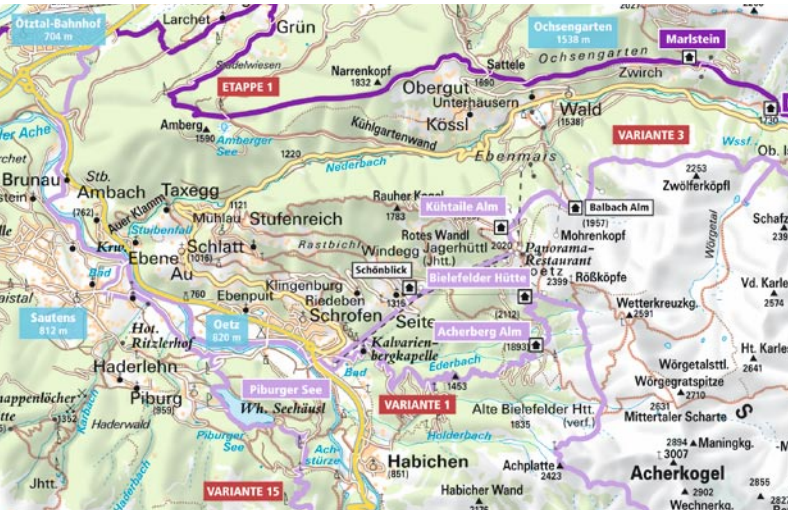
T +43 (0)5252 6385, [www.hochoetz.at](http://www.hochoetz.at)



Acherberg Alm

## DESCRIPTION

From the Valley To Lofty Heights - Variation 1 on the large Ötztal Loop takes you from Ötztal along a steep trail to Acherbergalm mountain hut. At the entrance to Ötztal-Bahnhof follow the signs on the main road to "Brunau, Oetz". The trail soon makes a left and climbs through a forest. Continue straight at the first two forks in the road. At the third fork, which has no signs, make a left turn. Follow the road down to Ötztal's valley road, cross it and continue further on to "Brunau". Follow the Ötztal Mountain Bike Trail (easy to identify by the road markings) into the valley. At a junction in Sautens, keep to the left – do not follow the climbing mountain bike trail! Shortly afterwards you continue along the river to the village of Oetz (there are two signs for Oetz). In Oetz you walk to the swimming pools above Acherkogel mountain gondola. From here a wide road switchbacks up through a shady forest. Take the shortcut and continue on the trail which zigzags through steep terrain (at approx. 1,270 meters above sea level). Later you can once more choose between the road and a steep footpath – take the footpath to Acherbergalm where you get a foretaste of the great views that await you at Bielefelder Hütte. Follow the precipitous trail in a northern direction up to the refuge where you are rewarded with magnificent views of Ötztal and the Lechtal Alps.



## Variation 2 MAP PAGE 59

**BIELEFELDER HÜTTE (2,112 M) →**

**WILHELM-OLTROGGE-WEG → SCHWEINFURTER HÜTTE (2,028 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** extremely long tour, exposed sections; steep slopes and ridges; some sections have ropes and metal rungs to assist you; stable weather conditions essential;

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 8.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,150 meters climbing, 1,250 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,010 m

**Distance:** approx. 12 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Bielefelder Hütte, Schweinfurter Hütte

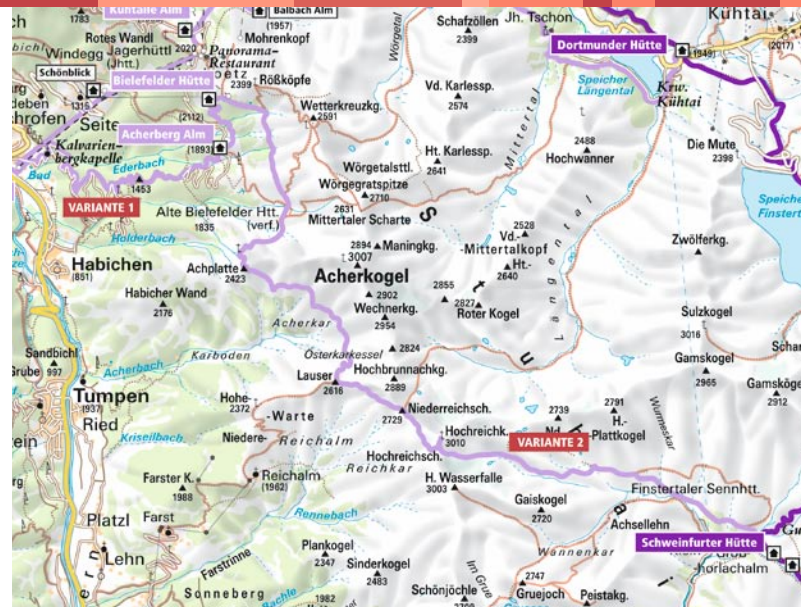
**Access/Exit points:** from Hochoetz to Bielefelder Hütte (approx. 20 min. up and 15 min. down); Acherkogel lift from Oetz to Hochoetz; from Niederthai (Umhausen) to Schweinfurter Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)

Acherkogel mountain gondola: open from June to early October, T +43 (0) 5252 6385, [www.hochoetz.at](http://www.hochoetz.at)

### DESCRIPTION

Steep Flanks, Ridges and A 3,000-Meter Summit - The hike from Bielefelder Hütte via Oetz to Schweinfurter Hütte is breathtakingly beautiful but quite demanding. The trickier sections were recently outfitted with fixed cables to make the route accessible to people with only some alpine experience.

From Bielefelder Hütte hike up to the ruins of the old Bielefelder Hütte and follow the trail that switchbacks through steep terrain to Achplatte plateau. After a short descent the trail traverses the steep and rocky flanks of Acherkar, crossing several narrow ditches along the way. The path then leads through the bowl-shaped depression of Österkar and climbs steeply to a shoulder which offers great views of the entire Ötztal, all the way to Längenfeld, and the Lech-



tal Alps in the northwest. The trail traverses another steep flank, climbs to Niederreichscharte ridge where it follows the wide but steep scree ridge before descending down to the southern flank and climbing steeply to Hochreichscharte (2,912 m). From here it's only 15 more minutes along an easy scree ridge to Hochreichkopf peak (3,010 m; 5.75 hrs.). Backtrack to Hochreichscharte and descend steeply in a southeastern direction to a basin with small and old snowfields. The trail descends on stone steps to the marvelous pasturelands at Finstertaler Sennhütte and continues gently down to Schweinfurter Hütte which is located above Niederthai.

## Variation 3

OETZ -> ACHERKOGELBAHN -> HOCHOETZ (2,020 M) ->  
KNAPPENWEG -> DORTMUNDER HÜTTE (1,949 M)

**Route:** road, steep path

**Requirements:** no special requirements, red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 3.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 350 climbing, 400 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,100 m

**Distance:** approx. 10 km

(information refers to Acherkogel top station/Hochoetz as starting point)

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Restaurant at the gondola's top station, Kühtaile Alm, Balbach Alm, Dortmunder Hütte – T +43 (0) 5239 5202

**Acherkogel mountain gondola:** open from June to early October, T +43 (0) 5252 6385, www.hochoetz.at

**Access/Exit points:** public bus from Oetz to Kühtai

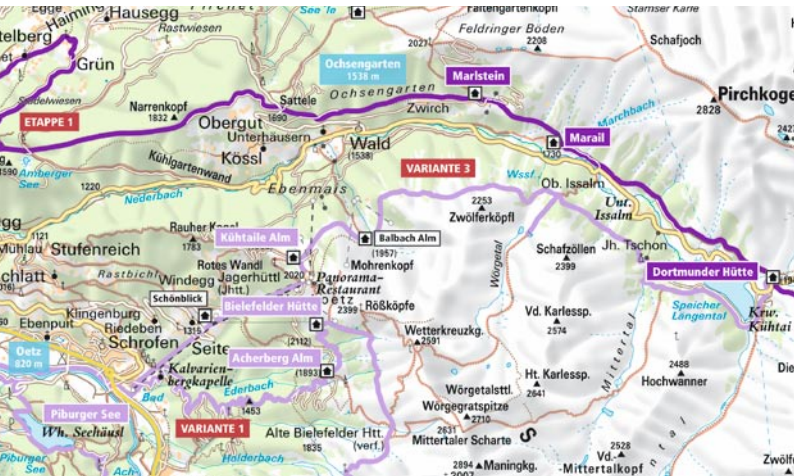


Dortmunder Hütte

### DESCRIPTION

A Trail Steeped in History - In Oetz we board Acherkogel gondola for a scenic ride to the alpine pasturelands of Hochoetz. Pick up the trail opposite the top station and follow the "Knappenweg" and/or "Höhenwanderweg" signs. Follow the unsealed road through meadows down to Kühtaile Alm and further on to Balbachalm mountain hut. At Balbachalm continue along a splendid trail which, after a short section through a beautiful pine forest, climbs and then descends moderately until reaching pristine Wörgetal valley.

At the ruins of Obere Issalm or the information panels in the resting area you may like to make a short detour into Wörgetal where ore and minerals were mined in past centuries. It's only a short walk to the reconstructed Miners' House and the old stamping mill which are also well worth a visit. During the mine's heydays up to 450 miners were digging for pyrite, yellow copper ore and galenite in Wörgetal. Just below the Miners' House is picturesque Lake Puchersee – a great photo stop! Backtrack to the resting place where you make a right turn. The trail then climbs and descends for a while and leads past Mittergrathütte down to Mittertal valley. Continue to the water reservoir in Längental and head down to the Kühtai main road below the hydroelectric plant. Dortmunder Hütte is right across the road.



# Variation 4

MAP PAGE 63

WINNEBACHSEEHÜTTE (2,361 M) → GRIES IM SULZTAL (1,569 M) →  
BRAND (1,385 M) → BURGSTEIN (1,424 M)

**Route:** steep path, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 3.75 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 150 meters climbing, 1,100 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,361 m

**Distance:** approx. 11 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Winnebachseehütte,  
Jausenstation Brand (Brandalm)

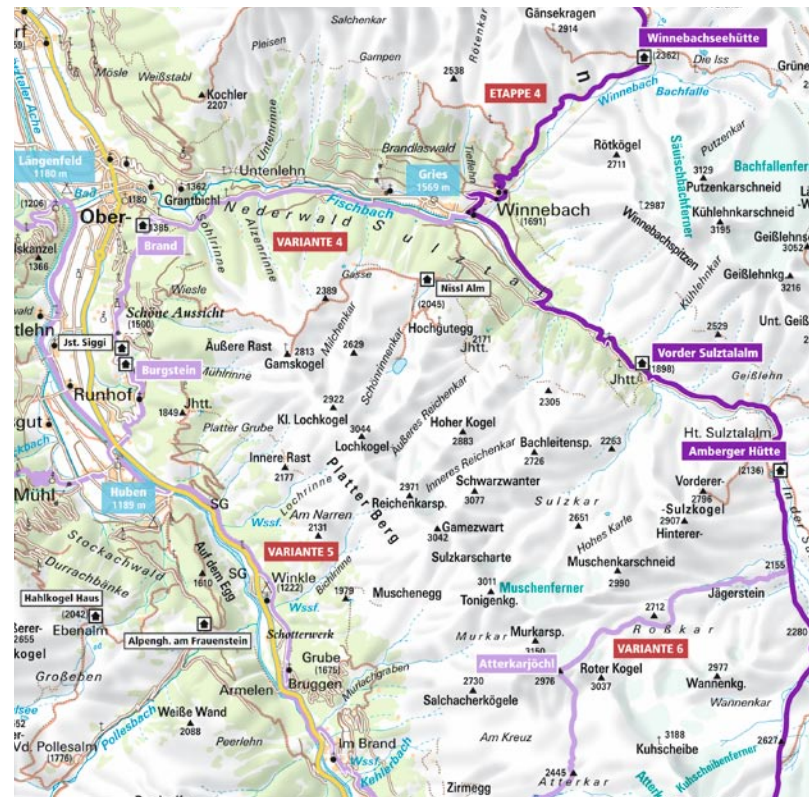
**Access/Exit points** from Gries im Sulztal (Längenfeld) to Winnebachseehütte (approx. 2.25 hrs. up and 1.75 hrs. down); from Längenfeld on the old road to Burgstein (approx. 1 hr. up and 45 min. down)

## DESCRIPTION

A Hut, A Mountain Village and Two Viewing Decks - From quaint Winnebachseehütte the trail descends in switchbacks to the valley where a waterfall cascades down into the swiftly flowing Winnebach Brook. The trail continues to descend gently. Look out for strange stone formations which were carved by glaciers. Once you reach the forest the trail drops rather steeply to the houses of Winnebach where you continue on an asphalted road to the charming mountain village of Gries im Sulztal (approx. 1.75 hrs.).

In Gries walk westwards, cross Fischbach Brook and head out of the valley along Nederweg trail, an old cartroad which descends gently through a forest. Just before Längenfeld a road takes you up to the Brand plateau where you find quaint Brandalm, a single farmhouse with a snack station attached. It's a great place to take a break and revel in the views of Ötztal. The trail then continues towards the hamlet of Burgstein and with changing uphill and downhill

sections through a forest to a small gorge. After the gorge you will soon see the first houses of Burgstein. Continue through meadows to the settlement which, like Brand, is located on a panoramic plateau above central Ötztal and affords great views and plenty of sunshine.



# Variation 5

MAP PAGE 65

**BURGSTEIN (1,424 M) → SÖLDEN (1,368 M)**

**Route:** (sealed) road, footpath, steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness and a good head for heights;

short climbing section; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 4.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 300 meters climbing, 350 meters descending

**Highest point:** approx. 1,435 m

**Distance:** approx. 13 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** inns and restaurants in the towns and hamlets along the way

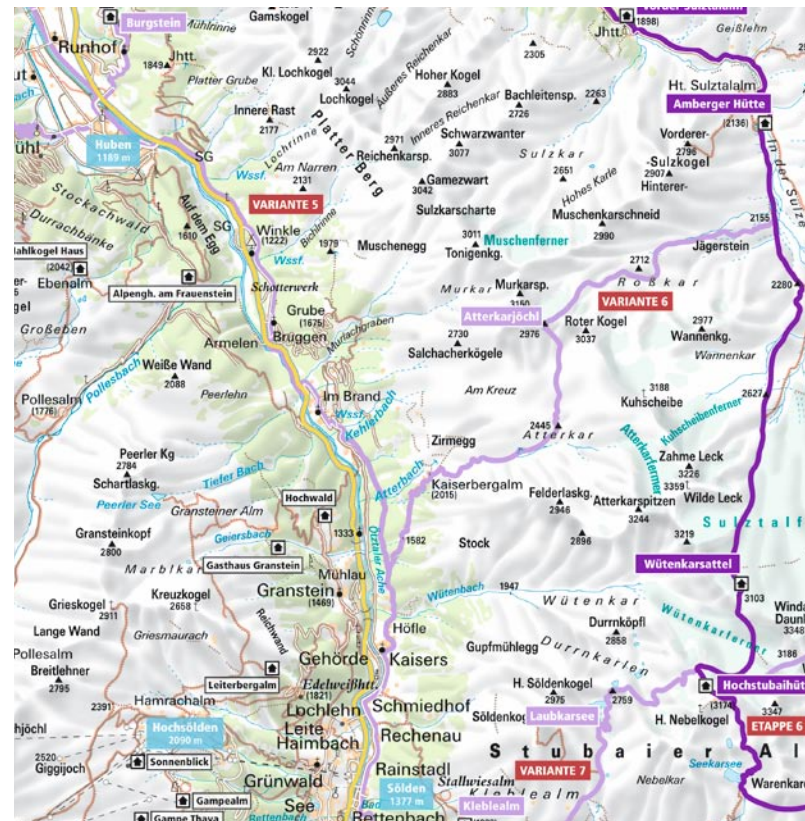
**Access/Exit points:** from Längenfeld on the old road to Burgstein (approx. 1 hr. up and 45 min. down)

## DESCRIPTION

From A Vantage Point To The Valley's Lively Center - The hamlet of Burgstein, located on a scenic balcony above Längenfeld, is starting point for this hike, which for large parts travels along the Ötztal Mountain Bike Trail (identifiable by the road markings) from hamlet to hamlet. The trail descends to a road which you follow until it bends sharply to the right at approx. 1,250 meters above sea level where you pick up the footpath to the village of Huben. In Huben you cross the federal road and the river and continue into the valley on the footpath parallel to the river. Just before "MS Automobil" you head over to the right side of the river and cross the road a few minutes later. The trail contours along the valley, climbing gradually (barely noticeable) to the houses of Aschbach (in Bruggen do not follow the short diversion of the Mountain Bike Trail along the main road, instead continue your way towards Aschbach). In Aschbach the character of the tour changes all of a sudden: The road climbs steeply up a slope before it splits after the houses.

Keep to the left (Sölden 1 hr.) leaving the mountain bike trail. The road soon turns into a steep path which runs through sloping terrain before climbing.

Cross Atterbach Brook – look out for the small waterfall – and continue along a road down to the hamlet of Kaisers. Follow the road in southern direction to the left of Ötztaler Ache River into the center of Sölden (alternatively you can take the bus into town; this will save you approx. 30 minutes of walking).



## Variation 6 MAP PAGE 65

**AMBERGER HÜTTE (2,136 M) ->**  
**ATTERKARJÖCHL (2,976 M) -> SÖLDEN (1,368 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition, high alpine experience; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** moderately steep glacier field (no crevasses) below Atterkarjöchel; steep descent down to Atterkar

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment, possibly light crampons

**Walking time:** approx. 7 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 850 meters climbing, 1,600 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,976 m

**Distance:** approx. 13 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Amberger Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Gries im Sulztal (Längenfeld) to Amberger Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)



Amberger Hütte

### DESCRIPTION

Along Deserted Footpaths To Sölden - From Amberger Hütte at the foot of 3,497-meter tall Schrankogel the trail contours along the valley, with Sulztal-ferner ahead of you. Pick up the trail to your right and climb the steep slope. Continue through the meadows to the moraine ridge, climb the ridge to the small, slightly ascending glacier field below rocky Atterkarjöchel col. Climb the glacier field on its left side, heading towards the poles on the saddle. Depending on snow conditions, (light) crampons might be required here. From Atterkarjöchel you enjoy splendid views of Ötztal's Wildspitze, North Tirol's highest mountain, and the glaciers in Obergurgl and Sölden.

A well-marked trail now descends through very steep and boulder-strewn terrain into deserted Atterkar area where you typically only meet sheep. The trail crosses jagged Atterkar and reaches a verdant basin through which a brook meanders and continues down to Kaiserbergalm hut (which is not serviced) and through the forest towering high above the Ötztal. An unsealed and then sealed road takes you into the hamlet of Kaisers. Follow the road to the left of Ötztaler Ache River into the center of Sölden (alternatively you can take the bus into town; this will save you approx. 30 minutes of walking).

# Variation 7

**SÖLDEN (1,368 M) -> KLEBLEALM (1,983 M) ->  
LAUBKARSEE -> HOCHSTUBAIHÜTTE (3,174 M)**

**Route:** steep path, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,800 meters climbing

**Highest point:** 3,174 m

**Distance:** approx. 8 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Kleblealm, Hochstubaihütte

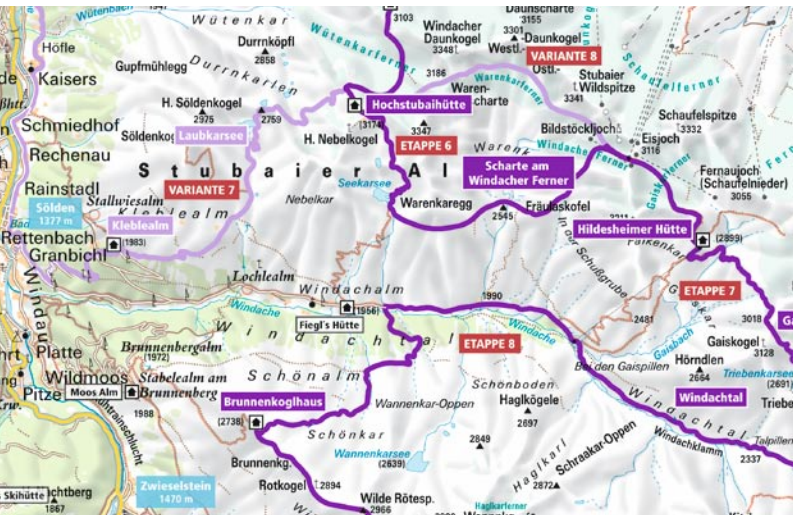


Mountain lake in Sölden

## DESCRIPTION

High Above Sölden - The hike from Sölden to Hochstubaihütte (3,174 m) on Wildkarspitze has a climb of 1,800 meters – not exactly chickenfeed! Leave Sölden towards the hamlet of Granbichl. At the parking area pick up the trail to Kleblealm mountain hut which you will reach after approx. 1.5 hrs. This exceptionally quaint little hut is an ideal place to take a break and have a bite to eat before tackling the rest of the hike. From the hut the trail climbs gradually above Windachtal valley and up to Laubkar cirque with pretty Lake Laubkarsee – a scenic gem! From now on the trail travels through rocky terrain.

After the lake the trail ascends steeply and then levels out heading east. Along the way you have to cross two easy snow fields – no crampons are required. The trail climbs one last steep section before reaching Hochstubaihütte from northwestern direction. **Option:** you could save 1.5 hours by taking the shuttle bus to Kleblealm.



## Variation 8 MAP PAGE 68

**HOCHSTUBAIHÜTTE (3,174 M) ->**

**JOCHDOHLE (3,150 M) -> HILDESHEIMER HÜTTE (2,900 M)**

**Route:** steep path, groomed trail on the glacier

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; alpine experience; black mountain trail; partly high alpine terrain

**Difficulties:** several glacier sections (crevasses!), guide recommended

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment; icepick and crampons depending on snow conditions; rope absolutely required, especially on Wütenkarferner

**Walking time:** approx. 4.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 350 meters climbing, 600 meters descending

**Highest point:** 3,174 m

**Distance:** approx. 6 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hochstubaihütte, Restaurant Jochdohle, Hildesheimer Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Sölden via Kleblealm and Laubkarsee to Hochstubaihütte (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); from Sölden via Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal and Seekarsee to Hochstubaihütte (very steep; approx. 5.5 hrs. up and 4.5 hrs. down); alternatively public bus to Kleblealm and Fiegl's Hütte from where it's a 3.5 hrs. hike to Hochstubaihütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. down) and 3 hrs. to Hildesheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. down); from Sölden through Windachtal and along Aschenbrennerweg or Gaiskarweg (steep) to Hildesheimer Hütte (approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down); alternatively public bus from Sölden to Fiegl's Hütte in Windachtal from where it's a 3 hrs. hike up to Hildesheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. down) Bus schedule: call +43 (0) 57200 200



Hildesheimer Hütte

### DESCRIPTION

Across Glaciers To Hildesheimer Hütte - This stage leads from scenic Hochstubaihütte across several glaciers and via Jochdohle in Stubai's glacier ski area to Hildesheimer Hütte. Once you have passed Warenkarscharte the route is all smooth sailing. From Hochstubaihütte, which affords breathtaking views thank to its high alpine location, you walk down a few meters in a northwestern direction and continue in the opposite direction towards lovely Lake Laubkarsee. At the lodge you make a right and walk down to Wütenkarferner Glacier, following the trail which first climbs gently, then steeply for a short distance and then moderately again in a northeastern direction to Warenkarscharte (no ice). Past Warenkarscharte there is a snow field which can be a bit tricky. If you don't feel comfortable you can circumvent it following an old, blue-blazed trail. Right after the snow field you switchback down a well-maintained path. After a scree field the path levels out and descends for a short distance before climbing again. The trail continues below Stubai's Wildspitze peak and runs through rubble, scree and crevasse-free snowfields. Follow the drag-lift on a well maintained and easy trail to Restaurant Jochdohle in the ski area. From the restaurant it's a gentle hike down via Gaiskarferner Glacier to a hilltop from where the trail switchbacks down to Hildesheimer Hütte.

# Variation 9

**OBERGURGL (1,907 M) -> RAMOLHAUS (3,005 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 4 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,100 meters

**Highest point:** 3,005 m

**Distance:** approx. 7.5 km

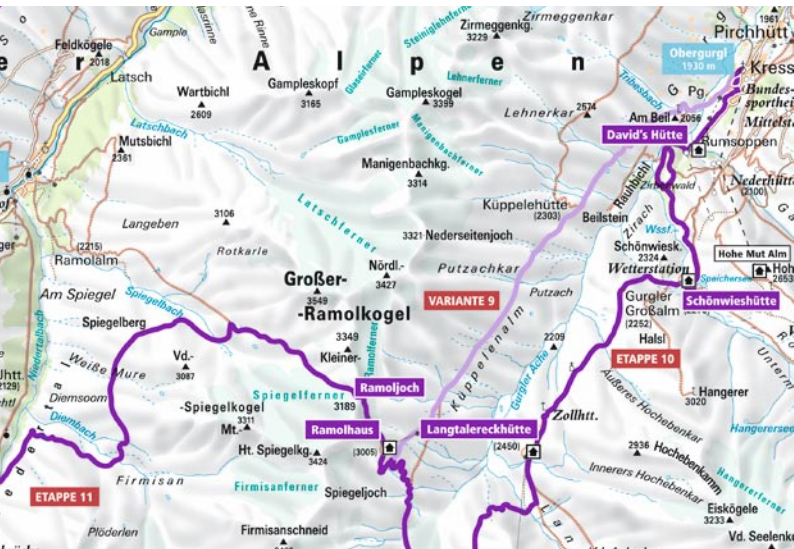
**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Ramolhaus

**Access/Exit points:** from vent via Ramoljoch to Ramolhaus

(approx. 5 hrs. up and 4 hrs. down)



Trail to Ramolhaus



## DESCRIPTION

Near The Eternal Ice Of Gurgler Ferner - This hike takes you from Europe's highest parish to a hut at over 3,000 meters above sea level, one of the most awe-inspiring spots of the Ötztal Alps. Leave Obergurgl's village center and follow Ramolweg Trail to Ramolhaus.

The trail crosses Gurgler Ache Brook and climbs in switchbacks before leveling out and contouring along the grassy slopes above the valley past dilapidated Kuppelehütte, crossing several brooks and cascading waterfalls along the way. Ramolhaus is often within sight – which makes the tour seem longer than it really is. Also within sight are mighty Gurgler Ferner to the south and an awe-inspiring high alpine glacier world in front of you. The last part of the winding trail climbs steeply before reaching Ramolhaus refuge which is perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the surrounding glaciers formations of picturesque Gurgler Ferner. Next to the refuge there is a small chapel where you can spend time in meditation or just recollect your thoughts.

# Variation 10

MARTIN-BUSCH-HÜTTE (2,501 M) →

SEIKOGEL (3,355 M) → HOCHJOCH HOSPIZ (2,412 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 6 hrs.

**Change in elevation:** approx. 1,000 meters climbing, 1,050 descending

**Highest point:** 3,355 m

**Distance:** approx. 8 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Martin-Busch-Hütte, Hochjoch Hospiz

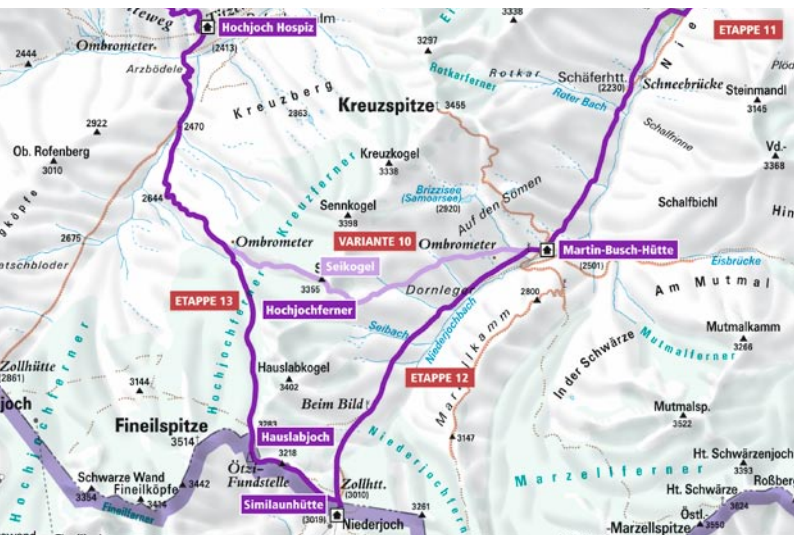
**Access/Exit points:** from Vent through Niedertal to Martin-Busch-Hütte (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down); from Vent through Rofental to Hochjoch Hospiz (approx. 2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down)



Martin-Busch-Hütte

## DESCRIPTION

Ice-Free Across Seikogel – Splendid 3,355-meter tall Seikogel on Kreuzkamm near Vent might not be as well known as neighboring Kreuzspitze, but its views are hard to beat. This exciting tour leads from Martin-Busch-Hütte in Niedertal via Seikogel to Hochjoch Hospiz in Rofental. Leaving Martin-Busch-Hütte, the trail gently climbs through grassy slopes in a western direction, with the terrain getting gradually rockier. The trail then contours along a wide scree ridge to just below the peak of Seikogel. From the trail it's only a short but steep walk up to the peak from where you enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and high alpine landscapes. Backtrack and head down in a northwestern direction. The trail leaves the ridge towards Hochjochferner Glacier, descends a slope and then switchbacks down steeply to Rofental valley. The trail crosses Hochjochbach Brook at approx. 2,500 meters above sea level and, after a short flat stretch, drops down to another scenic mountain brook. Cross the river and climb the last 100 meters to Hochjoch Hospiz which can be found on the opposite slope.



# Variation 11

HOCHJOCH HOSPIZ (2,412) ->

VERNAGTHÜTTE (2,755 M) -> BRESLAUER HÜTTE (2,844 M)

**Route:** steep path

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 4 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 700 meters climbing and 300 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,860 m

**Distance:** approx. 11.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hochjoch Hospiz, Vernagthütte, Breslauer Hütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Vent through Rofental to Hochjoch Hospiz (approx.

2.5 hrs. up and 2 hrs. down); from Stablein top terminal of Wildspitze lift

(Vent) to Breslauer Hütte (approx. 1.5 hrs. up and 1.25 hrs. down)

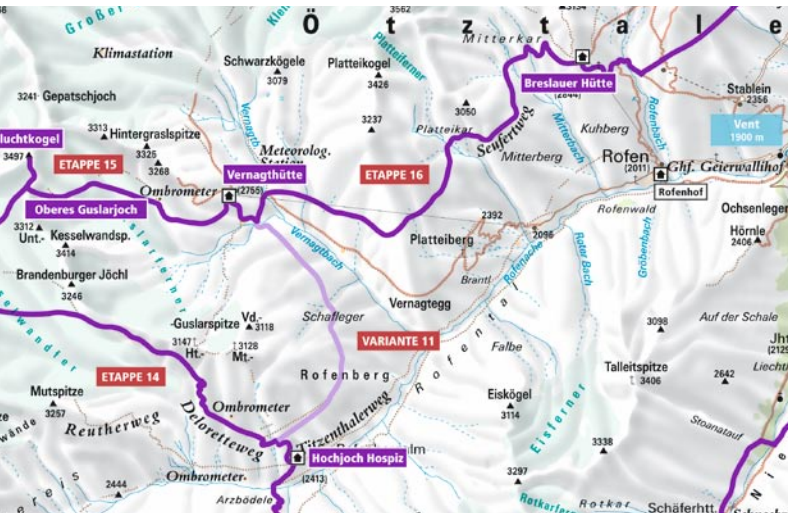


Hochjoch Hospiz

## DESCRIPTION

A View Of Wildspitze And Weißkugel - A well maintained trail links Hochjoch Hospiz with Vernagthütte and Breslauer Hütte, and takes you near majestic Wildspitze, North Tirol's tallest mountain, and beautiful Weißkugel, at 3,738 meters the Ötztal Alps' second tallest peak. Although the landscape is dominated by mighty glaciers, the tour leads entirely through ice-free terrain. Leaving behind Hochjoch Hospiz the trail climbs through high alpine meadows and then contours along the slopes above Rofental valley. If you look to the southwest you can see the eternal ice of Weißkugel peak.

The route continues in a northern direction above Vernagtbach Brook and then makes a left towards Vernagthütte (2 hrs.). From the hut the trail backtracks, crosses Vernagtbach Brook and climbs to the splendid meadows on Platteiberg. The trail crosses Platteikar cirque and weaves its way gently uphill and downhill through Mitterkar. Just above Mitterkar you can see Wildspitze, which looks unusually rocky from this angle. From here it's only a few more minutes down to Breslauer Hütte. Between Vernagthütte and Breslauer Hütte the route follows Seufertweg high altitude trail.



## Variation 12 MAP PAGE 79

**BRAUNSCHWEIGER HÜTTE (2,758 M) →  
MANDARFEN (PITZTAL) → RÜSSELSHEIMER HÜTTE (2,328 M)**

**Route:** steep path, road, footpath

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 5.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 750 meters climbing, 1,150 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,758 m

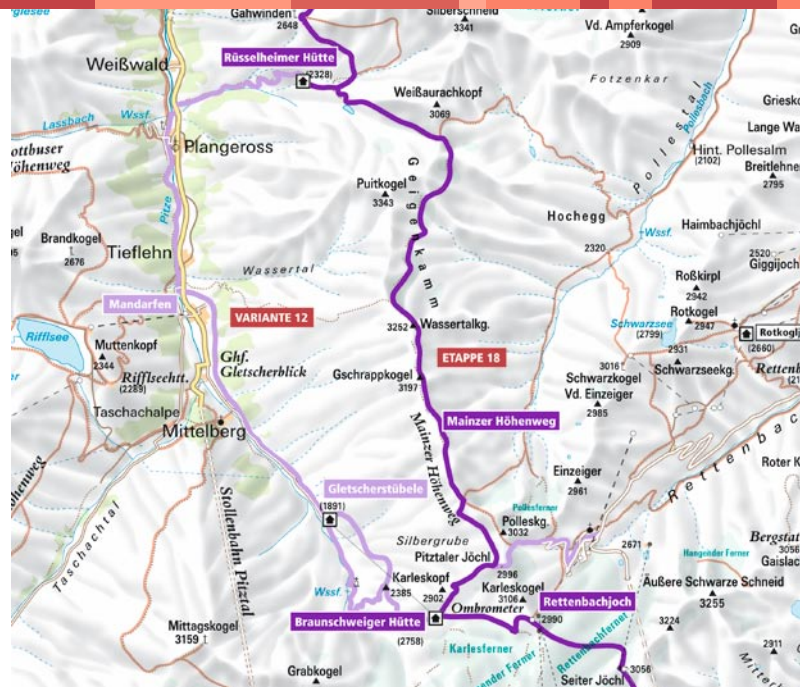
**Distance:** approx. 11 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Braunschweiger Hütte, Rüsselsheimer Hütte –T +43 (0) 664 2808 107, Gletscherstübele –T +43 (0) 5413 86252

**Access/Exit points:** from the base terminal of Rettenbachferner via Rettenbachjoch to Braunschweiger Hütte (approx. 1.75 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down); from Plangeross (St. Leonhard im Pitztal) to Rüsselsheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)

### DESCRIPTION

A Side-Trip To Pitztal - From Braunschweiger Hütte the trail winds its way down through steep terrain. At approx. 2,400 meters above sea level the route splits and you can choose between two variations. Variation 1: This trail takes you near the glacier snout of Mittelbergferner through which the Pitze mountain brook spouts out in full spate. The trail descends parallel to the river, which at one point turns into a cascading waterfall. Variation 2: You follow the trail down the slopes to the right and continue to the mid terminal of the goods lift where the two trails join. Walk past Gletscherstübele and follow the road to Mittelberg in Pitztal and further on to Mandarfen. Continue along a footpath to the parking area of Rüsselsheimer Hütte, just a few meters north of Plangeross. From the parking lot the trail climbs through steep terrain, some sections have cables or chains for you to hold on to. After about 2 hours you will reach picturesque Rüsselsheimer Hütte, which stands on the edge of a basin which opens to the



west. At Rüsselsheimer Hütte you shouldn't miss out on their signature dish: ibex goulash! The fresh meat comes from animals that live in the rocky regions near the refuge. Another thing you shouldn't miss out on are the views: Just opposite you can admire mighty Watzespitze peak with its striking hanging glacier in immediate vicinity to mighty Kaunergrat. **Option:** you could save 1 hour by taking the shuttle bus from Mittelberg to Plangeross.

# Variation 13

**RÜSSELSEIMER HÜTTE (2,328 M) -> KAPUZINERJÖCHL (2,710 M) -> BREITLEHNJÖCHL (2,637 M) -> HUBEN (1,189 M)**

**Route:** steep path, footpath, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; black mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 7 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 700 meters climbing, 1,850 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,710 m

**Distance:** approx. 12 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Rüsselsheimer Hütte

T +43 (0) 664 2808 107, Breitlehnmalm

**Access/Exit points:** from Plangeross (St. Leonhard im Pitztal) to Rüsselsheimer Hütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down)



Breitlehntal

## DESCRIPTION

From Pitztal To Ötztal - The trail leaves Rüsselsheimer Hütte in an eastern direction and then makes a left turn towards Gahwinden vista point (approx. 1 hour). On your way up you cross several chutes, some of which have chains for you to hold on to. From Gahwinden area the trail descends through scree into isolated Rötkarle and then climbs gradually, then steeply up to Kapuzinerjochl col (also known as Rötkarlloch; approx. 1 hour from Gahwinden). With a bit of luck in this section you can often see ibexes. Beyond Kapuzinerjochl the trail drops down through steep and rocky terrain (fixed cables) before leveling out and climbing leisurely towards Breitlehnmalm. From Breitlehnmalm the route descends steeply through rocky, boulder-strewn terrain until you get to secluded Breitlehntal valley where it continues gently down to Breitlehnmalm mountain hut – a great place to take a rest and refuel. From Breitlehnmalm continue on “Hubener Jubiläumsweg”, a superbly maintained footpath, through a shady forest and along a cartroad to the first houses of Mühl from where it’s only a stone’s throw to Huben ( Längenfeld). **Option:** if you take a taxi from Breitlehnmalm to Huben the walking time is reduced by approx. 1.5 hrs. and 700 meters in elevation. Please ask at the tourist office for taxis.



# Variation 14

HUBEN (1,189 M) → LÄNGENFELD (1,180 M) →  
HAUERTAL → HAUSERSEEHÜTTE (2,383 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath, road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment; enough food and drink (Hauerseehütte is not serviced)

**Walking time:** approx. 4.5 hrs.

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 1,200 meters climbing

**Highest point:** 2,383 m

**Distance:** approx. 9.5 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Hauerseehütte

**Access/Exit points:** from Unterried or Oberried (Längenfeld) to Hauerseehütte (3.5 hrs. up and 2.5 hrs. down either way)

## DESCRIPTION

The Small Hut By The Lake - The destination of this hike is small Hauerseehütte (checked by a hut keeper only during peak season), a self-catering hut on pretty Lake Hauensee whose turquoise-tinted waters mirror the sky above.

The hike starts in the village of Huben (Längenfeld) and leaves the valley along the right shore of Öztaler Ache River towards Längenfeld. The route takes you past Aqua Dome, crosses the rushing waters of Fischbach Brook, which meanders down from Sulztal valley. The trail once more crosses the river and then the flat part is over. The trail climbs in switchbacks past the famous Plague Chapel and then continues through a steep but easy forest section to Hauertal where the terrain opens up into a wild and rocky basin which is so narrow it almost looks like a gorge. The well-maintained trail continues climbing, crossing several newly built bridges along the way. The closer you get to Hauerseehütte the gentler the landscape becomes. After about 4.5 hours you will reach quaint Hauerseehütte which sits on a small hill.



Längenfeld

## Variation 15 MAP PAGE 54

ERLANGER HÜTTE (2,541 M) → VORDERE TUMPENALM (1,831 M) →  
 ARMELENHÜTTE (1,747 M) → PIBURGER SEE (914 M) →  
 SAUTENS (812 M) → ÖTZTAL-BAHNHOF (704 M)

**Route:** steep path, footpath, (sealed) road

**Requirements:** surefootedness, good head for heights, good physical condition; red mountain trail

**Difficulties:** none; some sections are equipped with fixed cables and metal rungs

**Equipment:** standard hiking equipment

**Walking time:** approx. 9 hrs; 2-day hike

**Changes in elevation:** approx. 300 meters climbing, 2,100 meters descending

**Highest point:** 2,612 m

**Distance:** approx. 20 km

**Lodging, refreshment stops:** Erlanger Hütte, Vordere Tumpenaln, Restaurants at Piburger See

**Access/Exit points:** from Umhausen to Erlanger Hütte (approx. 4.5 hrs. up and 3.5 hrs. down); alternatively taxi from Umhausen to Vordere Leierstalalm from where it's 2 hrs. up to Erlanger Hütte and about 1.5 hrs. down; from Tumpen (Umhausen) to Armelenhütte (approx. 2 hrs. up and 1.5 hrs. down); Taxi Scharfetter – T +43 (0) 5255 5858



Piburger See

### DESCRIPTION

A Hike In Two Stages - Only really strong hikers should attempt this hike as a one day trip, for all others Armelenhütte is a great place to spend the night. From Erlanger Hütte the trail loses some altitude and then traverses a slope before climbing a ridge. Past the ridge the trail drops steeply to Tumpen Tal and contours along the valley floor, crossing the rushing mountain brook several times. Just above Vordere Tumpenaln the trail joins a road which you walk down, past a mountain hut, to approx. 1,700 meters above sea level. From here it's a few minutes up to Armelenhütte (approx. 4.5 hrs. from Erlanger Hütte; walking times in the information block refer to the entire stage). Armelenhütte is actually a dairy but offers accommodation for tired hikers (advance booking is absolutely required!). The next day you backtrack a few meters and then descend through a steep forest. The trail continues below Armelenwand rockface and once more drops down steeply, but has fixed cables, rails and metal rungs to assist you. Follow a road to pristine Lake Piburger See (outdoor swimming bath) and continue along its northern/north-eastern shore down to Piburg and the valley floor, where you follow the Ötztal Mountain Bike Trail (identifiable by the road markings) to Sautens and the hamlet of Brunau. Just after Brunau pick up the narrow path to your right and climb to the road which you cross, following the signs to "Ötztal-Bahnhof" and/or "Haiming" (keep right at the cross). Continue through a forest to Ötztal-Bahnhof.

# Information

## LOCAL INFORMATION OFFICES

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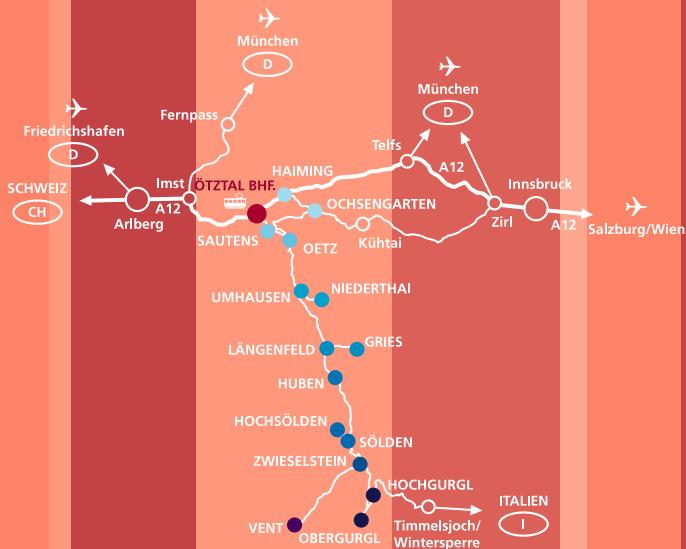
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