Trekking Austria's Dachstein Circuit

Trip Code: SGDC

Version:

WALK & TREK	SELF-GUIDED	6 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the stunning region of the UNESCO-listed Salzkammergut
- Hike through magnificent alpine landscapes and experience the warm welcome of traditional Austrian mountain huts
- Drink in the breathtaking airy views from the Dachstein Skywalk and the famous 5 Fingers Viewing Platform

- Discover Hallstatt, considered the most beautiful lakeside town in the world
- Hike a fantastic alpine circuit trek to rival the Tour du Mont Blanc

AT A GLANCE

- 8 days walking
- 2 rest days
- Max altitude 2,700m
- Daily departures
- Suitable for 2+ travellers
- Join at / End in Gosau or Bad Goisern

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

In Austria, the journey really is the destination. Home to beguilingly pretty scenery formed by glacial activity over the millennia, and a wealth of exceptional walking trails, the Dachstein is calling for you to immerse yourself in her dreamy landscapes of soaring mountains and peaceful lakes. Hiking has a long tradition here and it could be said that it is the country's unofficial pastime. On this 12-day self-guided walking holiday circumnavigating the impressive Dachstein Massif, you can enjoy the satisfaction of completing a classic long-distance alpine trek under your own steam. This Dachstein Circuit walking holiday is a great alternative to the Tour du Mont Blanc.

Your holiday begins in Gosau, at the foot of the Dachstein mountain range. Your hike will take you through enchanting alpine pastures, across high karst plateaus, through montane forests, alongside sparkling lakes and, perhaps most memorably, across the ancient Dachstein Glacier that glistens high in the alpine terrain. On this holiday you will also explore the world-famous Salzkammergut, recognised on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its beautiful landscapes and rich history of salt mining dating back to the Middle Bronze Age. With strategic free days in Ramsau and Hallstatt, plus inclusions to must-see attractions such as the Dachstein Skywalk and the 5 Fingers Viewing Platform, you will have the opportunity to discover the many wonders this region has to offer and to fall in love with Austria.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is perfect for you if you are an active and experienced walker looking for a long-distance circuit trek in stunning alpine terrain with a real 'high mountains' feel. You will walk an average of 5-6 hours a day, with an average daily distance of around 14km, and average ascent/descent of 800m in a day. There are a couple of longer days with bigger climbs or descents, including one day with a walking time of around 8 hours on which there is a much longer descent (approximately 1,600m), and the maximum altitude you will reach on the trip is 2,700m above sea level. The nature of the terrain requires a good level of hill fitness, surefootedness, and occasionally a good head for heights. You should be experienced in managing yourself on a variety of terrain, including steep and/or loose ground and narrow mountain trails in both dry and wet conditions, as well as snowy tracks up on the glacier. Whilst routes are well signposted, basic map-reading skills and confidence in navigation are recommended for

this holiday. Your trek is interspersed with two free days to rest your legs and enjoy some leisurely sightseeing. You will stay 8 nights in comfortable hotels or guesthouses, and 3 nights in mountain huts in communal dorms. Although luggage transfers are provided between accommodations down in the valley, you will need to carry your overnight equipment for the 3 nights spent in mountain huts where luggage transfers are not possible. For reasons of safety in the high mountains, this trip is suitable for groups of 2 or more travellers.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- 5 luggage transfers between hotels
- Cable car uplift from Gosausee Lake to Zwieselalm on Day 2
- Bus from Türlwand to Ramsau Ort on Day 3
- Schladming-Dachstein Card (covers ticket for the Dachstein Gletscherbahn on Day 5; gives free entry/ discounts to many local attractions),
- Train ticket from Bad Mitterndorf/Pichl-Kainisch to Bad Aussee on Day 8
- Ferry ticket from Hallstatt train station to market on Day 8
- Entrance and guided tour of Koppenbrüllerhöhle cave
- All-inclusive ticket for the Dachstein Adventure World
- Ferry from Hallstatt market to train station on Day 10
- GPX tracks supplied

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to/from Gosau/Bad Goisern
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Luggage transfers to mountain huts (Days 2/5/10)
- Any local transfers required not described as included
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool, or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our Sales Team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Your trip starts and ends at your hotel in Gosau or Bad Goisern. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Salzburg Airport, followed by Munich Airport; both are well-served with many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying into Salzburg, you can take the public bus to Salzburg's main bus terminus from where you can take the bus via Bad Ischl to Gosau or Bad Goisern. The whole journey takes around 3 hours and takes you through the wonderful scenery of the region. From Salzburg it is also possible to take the train to Golling, from where you can get the bus or train to Gosau or Bad Goisern.

If you are flying into Munich, the train journey to Salzburg central station adds around two and half hours to your journey to Gosau/Bad Goisern.

The Austrian Federal Railway (ÖBB) offers a useful app for planning your journey on their public transport network. Visit https://www.oebb.at/en/fahrplan/fahrplanauskunft/scottymobil for more information.

Rome2Rio.com is also useful for comparing bus and train options.

You can reverse the routes described above if flying back out of the airport at which you arrived.

It is also possible to travel flight-free from the UK by making use of the Eurostar to connect to the rail network in mainland Europe. The seat61.com website is a useful resource for rail planning.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a half-board basis, with continental breakfasts and evening meals included. Dinners are set menus from the accommodations, typically three-course meals at the hotels and inns, or sometimes at the mountain huts you will have the one-course hiker's meal. Lunch provisions can be purchased from the accommodations, local shops or from the huts along the way.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

When in the towns and villages all tap water is drinkable. In mountain huts there is usually not a sustainable drinking water supply. Water in plastic bottles is brought in to the hut. All huts have a recycling point. If you have to purchase water in plastic bottles please buy the largest bottle you can so as to use less plastic. Please take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water if you can fill from a local stream. Bottled water is not provided. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles. Local authorities are working to find solutions to using plastic water bottles in huts. We monitor the situation carefully for updates.

This trip is on a half board basis for all 11 nights. As to be expected, the food available in restaurants and hotels in Austria is excellent. In huts, the food is simple and wholesome usually with a set menu which will include a vegetarian option. Continental breakfasts and evening meals are provided by your accommodation. Provisions for packed lunches are available from some of the accommodations or from shops along the way. Please ensure you pre-order your packed lunch from the hotels and mountain huts the evening before.

Food in Austria is a hearty affair with many stews, schnitzel and delicious desserts on offer to fuel all those walks amongst the beautiful alpine peaks. When you think of Austrian cuisine goulash, Apfelstrudel and the yummy chocolate Sachertorte for which the country is famed spring to mind. Yet there is a plethora of history behind these national favourites and many more.

Austrian cuisine is symbolic of the former crownlands of its monarchy and its multi-cultural history with Hungarians, Bohemians, Slovaks, Poles, Croatians and immigrants from Dalmatia, Subcarpathia, Bukovina and Carnola all bringing their favourite recipes with them as they came to Vienna. The best of the best dishes have become fully integrated into the Austrian menu. Take Apfelstrudel for example, which originally came from Turkey after being adopted by Hungary along the way. Who would have thought this Austrian national dish was actually Turkish?

Accommodation

On this trekking holiday you will stay 8 nights in a selection of traditional and welcoming family-run Alpine hotels or guesthouses, and 3 nights in mountain huts along the trail (on days 2, 5, and 10). All accommodations have been carefully chosen for their service and offer a warm welcome to hikers on this classic route, and many offer outdoor areas with great views of the surrounding mountains. Some hotels even offer saunas and wellness facilities, perfect for relaxing after your day's walk. Staying in remote mountain huts along the way is a wonderful part of experience, to enjoy the camaraderie with fellow hikers and to wake up in the tranquillity of the high mountains. Serving up continental breakfasts and hearty dinners (typically 3-course meals or 1-course hut specialties), you will be well-fuelled for each day's hike.

Accommodation at hotels, inns or guesthouses is on a double or twin sharing basis, typically with Austrian-style twin beds (two beds within one bed frame and separate bedding) as is traditional in this area.

Accommodation for the 3 nights in mountain huts will be bunk beds in shared rooms; blankets are provided however a lightweight sheet sleeping bag liner is mandatory for these nights. For these 3 nights, luggage transfers are not provided; you will need to bring your overnight items with you in your day bag. Due to their remote locations, hut facilities can be more basic and not all huts can offer running water, hot water or showers. At most huts, card payment is not possible so you should have a supply of cash for food and drinks.

Single rooms are available for the 8 nights at hotels/guesthouses at a supplementary cost - please contact our Sales Team for a quote. Single rooms are not available at the mountain huts.

It is possible to book additional nights' accommodation in Gosau or Bad Goisern before or after your trek - please ask our Sales Team for further details.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between hotels while you are out on your trek. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 25kg per piece (max. 2 pieces per person) and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you, including your overnight items for the three nights in mountain huts where you will not have access to your main luggage.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace, however getting some additional exercise before going on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. After all, the fitter you are, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be aerobically fit, and comfortable with walking for 5 to 6 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardiovascular fitness and stamina. It is always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear you are going to use on this holiday.

Climate

This trip is offered during the summer months, when you are most likely to experience good, stable weather with pleasant daytime temperatures averaging around 21 degrees Centigrade. It can be cool in the evenings, particularly at the high mountain huts where temperatures can drop close to freezing overnight. Mountainous areas do generate their own micro climates - rain and occasionally even stormy weather cannot be ruled out, and snow is possible at any time of the year. You should be prepared for all eventualities.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Walking in Austria - Kev Reynolds (Cicerone)

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good-grip soles

- Functional base layer

- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof Jacket
- Waterproof Trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 30 l)
- Sheet sleeping bag liner or lightweight sheet sleeping bag
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Sunglasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable sealable lunch box for picnics

- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Micro spikes (in case icy conditions are encountered)
- Your self-guided route notes

Land Only Information

Please note that our 'from' price listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, and that this trip is suitable for groups of 2 or more travellers - contact our Sales Team for a quote.

When considering your travel dates, you might like to investigate any seasonal opening times of attractions and points of interest.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with a quote for scheduled flights, or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

If you are looking for an alternative self-guided hike to the Tour du Mont Blanc, this is a great option for you to enjoy a classic Alpine circuit trek.Working with our partners in Austria, we plant a tree for every booking.With half-board meals and hotel-to-hotel luggage transfers included, you can simply relax and enjoy the freedom of the trails.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 23/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change