Walking Austria's Zell am See

Trip Code: SGZS

Version:

WALK & TREK	SELF-GUIDED	4 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk Zell am See's colourful alpine landscapes
- Delight in spectacular views of Lake Zell and lofty snow-capped peaks
- Pause during your walks to enjoy local specialities and a dip in the lake
- Relax at your hotel's alpine spa and natural outdoor swimming pond

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days walking
- Max altitude 2,011m
- Daily departures except on Mondays
- Join at Maishofen / End in Maishofen

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Explore the shimmering landscapes of Austria's Zell am See region on this one-week self-guided walking holiday. Staying in Maishofen near the northern end of Lake Zell and the mouth of the Saalbach-Hinterglemm valley, you are perfectly placed for some excellent walking. Well known for snow sports in the winter, in summer the area attracts walkers, mountain bikers and water lovers. People also love the region's tasty cuisine, and you have plenty of opportunities to enjoy it on this trip.

Your routes take you on a variety of walks, with one longer day designed as an out and back so that you can shorten it if you wish. Making use of the excellent local transport and the local cable car opens up a lot of beautiful terrain on well-maintained mountain roads, tracks and paths. The alpine views in the area are stunning and we've designed the walks to pass by mountain inns and huts that make great spots for a break and a snack or refreshment en-route. Gaze out over glittering Lake Zell and across the colourful alpine pastures that surround you, to snow-capped peaks.

Staying at a renowned traditional 4-star hotel run by the same family for eight generations, you can look forward to a warm Austrian welcome. Its traditional alpine spa leading out to a private garden with a natural swimming pond is perfect for relaxing after a day out walking. Staying here for the entire week means you can really enjoy these excellent facilities, as well as the wonderful local cuisine served at its restaurant where we have included five evening meals for you.

Is this holiday for you?

This trip is perfect if you love walking in stunning alpine landscapes at your own pace carrying only your daypack, with plenty of time for pampering and relaxation too. You will walk an average of 11km (3-4 hours) each day, with one longer day of 14km (6-7 hours), on well-marked well-maintained paths, trails, forest tracks and side roads. The longest route requires 6-7 hours walking and has the most ascent and descent of any of the walks (+1,200m / - 1,200m). However this walk follows an out and back route, so you can turn around at any point yet still enjoy the breathtaking scenery and views. Otherwise, the average ascent and descent for the week is around +300m / -500m.

The terrain is varied, including straightforward tracks in the valley bottoms and mountain roads across alpine meadows, as well as trails through forestry and fields. There are sections where the terrain can be steep or the paths can be rocky or rooty, and so you should be confident on sections of uneven terrain. Throughout your trip, you will be rewarded with stunning panoramic views of colourful alpine pastures, Lake Zell and the surrounding peaks.

Staying at a fantastic traditional 4-star hotel, you will be welcomed with warm Austrian hospitality and can enjoy the use of its impressive alpine spa and natural outdoor swimming pond, which is included.

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
- An uphill cable car journey on the Schmittenhöhebahn cable car on Day 4
- A liquor tasting in the Schloss Kammer hotel's historic cellar
- An infrared sauna at the Schloss Kammer hotel's alpine spa
- An entry to Maishofen lido
- Welcome briefing
- Navigation App and GPX tracks available

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to / from Maishofen
- 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
- 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.

GPS Travel App

This holiday includes a GPS navigation app, which contains the routes for you to follow each day, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your personal smartphone device before you leave home and you are ready to go.

While the travel app is running, your phone battery charge can be consumed faster than normal, so we strongly recommend that you pack a power bank with you just in case you require it.

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

The trip starts and ends in Maishofen. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The nearest airports for this trip are Salzburg and Innsbruck, both of which are well served with departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying into either of these airports, you can take the train to Maishofen-Saalbach station, which is around a 15-minute walk or a very short taxi ride from your hotel.

If you are flying into Salzburg airport, you can take the Line 2 bus (approx. 20 mins, €2-3) or a taxi (approx. 10 mins, €16-20) to Salzburg Hauptbahnhof rail station. The train from here to Maishofen-Saalbach station takes around two hours with a couple of changes.

If you are flying into Innsbruck airport, you can take the bus (approx. 15 mins, €2-3), the Line 5 tram (approx. 15 mins, €3) or a taxi (approx. 10 mins, €20-25) to Innsbruck Hauptbahnhof rail station. The train from here to Maishofen-Saalbach station takes around two hours with one change.

You can reverse the journeys above for your return journey.

For the latest information, please see https://www.rome2rio.com/.

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

Your stay on this holiday is on a half-board basis (dinner, bed & breakfast) for 5 nights, and bed & breakfast for one night (on Mondays when the hotel restaurant closes for a well-deserved evening off). As such, please note that the evening meals indicated as included on the daily itinerary can therefore vary depending on your chosen day of departure. On a Monday night, you will have the opportunity to dine out at a restaurant of your choice. We have also included picnic lunches from your hotel on two days of your choice, and where these are indicated as included on the daily itinerary can also vary depending on your chosen day of departure.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide 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 diet 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

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

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.

In the Pinzgau, where the Zell am See region is situated, you can look forward to specialities that are popular throughout Salzburger Land. These include dishes such as Pinzgauer Kasnocken (small handmade flour-and-egg pasta dumplings such as Nocken or Spätzle, tossed with melted cheese and caramelized onions), and Pinzgauer Bladln (fried turnovers filled with potato and bacon). You'll also find Kaspress soup (hot beef or vegetable broth served with fresh cheese dumplings made with the pungent local Bierkäse), and Bauerngröstl (pan-fried potatoes, onions, mushrooms, bacon and beef garnished with a fried egg and grated horseradish).

Local sweet treats include the iconic Kaiserschmarren (shredded fluffy sweet pancakes, sometimes containing rum-soaked raisins, dusted with icing sugar and served with plum compote or apple sauce), Salzburger Nockerl (a sweet soufflé shaped to mimic alpine peaks), and Moosbeernocken (small sweet blueberry pancakes).

Accommodation

Alpine hospitality is second-to-none, and you are sure of a warm welcome at the wonderful family-run 4-star hotel we have selected for this trip. Set in a fantastic location near the head of Lake Zell, this ancient castle hotel is full of character. Run by the same family for eight generations and renovated in 1994 and 2007, it possesses a great mix of traditional and modern style. You can pamper yourself at its alpine-style spa or relax in its natural outdoor swimming pond, and enjoy five included evening meals at its renowned restaurant that serves excellent regional Pinzgau cuisine using locally sourced ingredients, many from its own garden and the nearby woods and fields.

The hotel offers an excellent buffet breakfast to fuel you for the day ahead and rooms are on a double or twin basis, typically with Austrian-style twin beds as is traditional in this area (two beds within one bed frame and separate bedding).

It is possible to arrange additional nights' accommodation if you would like to enjoy this magnificent region a little longer - please speak to our Sales Team for further details.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday.

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 coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. You should be comfortable with walking an average of around 11km per day for five consecutive days, and up to around 14km for your longest walk, on a mixture of well-maintained rural paths, dirt trails, mountain and forest tracks, and some side-roads. You should be able to manage ascents and descents of up to around 1,200m elevation change on your longest walk. The walks are leisurely in general, with one longer day where more stamina is required. The fitter you are, the more enjoyable your walks will be, so we suggest that you try to fit in a number of daily walks in hilly countryside before your trip. It is also always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear that you are going to use on this holiday.

Climate

Around Zell Am See, summers tend to be pleasant with daytime temperatures ranging from around 15 degrees centigrade in May, to the low 20s in July and August, and high teens in September. Throughout this time, as in many regions with mountainous regions, you can expect some rain. Here, this is often in the form of short heavy afternoon thundershowers, with July being the dampest month. Be sure to pack a range of warm layers and waterproofs to cover 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.

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

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good-grip soles
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers
- Functional base layer top and leggings

- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)
- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Headtorch with spare batteries

- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

Land Only Information

Please note that our 'from' price listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo 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?

This trip allows you to experience some of the very best alpine hiking in the beautiful Zell am See region in just one week, based at a wonderful hotel near the head of Lake Zell and the Saalbach-Hinterglemm valley.We have included an uphill journey on the Schmittenhöhebahn cable car, an entry to Maishofen lido, and a liquor tasting and a special infrared sauna at your hotel, so all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other and enjoy your holiday!

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