

Pyrenean Group Holiday

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Lechweg – Austrian Tirol - 12 nights

General Introduction

The Lechweg follows the River Lech for almost 78 miles, from its spring near the Formarinsee lake in Austria to the Lechfall waterfall in Füssen in Germany. It is one of only twelve long distance hiking routes in Europe certified by the European Ramblers Association as 'Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe'.

Our route includes days in the high mountains which rise above the valley and also some days in the valley wending our way through some pretty villages on good paths and tracks.

The Lechweg crosses over a stunning 660 ft long suspension bridge and leads up to the royal castle of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, Neuschwanstein.

Overview

12 nights guided trip with baggage transfers between hotels.

9 hiking days and 2 days off.

There are 2 ½ - 6 hours hiking per day, not counting breaks. The hikes range in length from 4 – 13 miles. The highest altitude is 8300 feet. The greatest total daily ascent is 2200 feet, and the greatest total daily descent is 3500 feet. 1600 feet altitude gain and 2200 feet loss is a typical daily average.

Accommodation in 3* and 4* hotels, 9 nights half board and 3 nights bed & breakfast.

Itinerary

NB the times below are walking times and do not included stops on the way for lunch etc.

Day 1

Arrive Lech Am Arlberg (Austria)

Travel to starting point. Transport from Munich or Innsbruck airports can be arranged.
Orientation meeting in the evening.

Meals included: Evening meal



Lech Am Arlberg

Day 2

Pyrenean Group Holidays is part of Martagon Holidays Ltd, a UK company, Registered No. 1296869
Our UK address is 4 Willow Walk, Chickerell, DT3 4GE

Lechweg section 1 – Formarinsee to Lech Am Arlberg

We take a private bus and then have a short walk up to the Formarinsee lake (6200 ft) and then on to a fabulous viewpoint near the Freiburger hut. Then we have a gentle and interesting descent of the main valley on paths running close to the Lech river. The trail crosses mountain pastures and passes the Steinbock Monument, a reminder of the resettlement of Ibex into the wild in 1958. One of the largest ibex colonies in Europe lives in this area. We walk back to our hotel in Lech.

12 miles, 5 ½ hours. Total ascent 1000 ft. Descent 2500ft. Highest point 6300 ft.

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal at Lech



Formarinsee

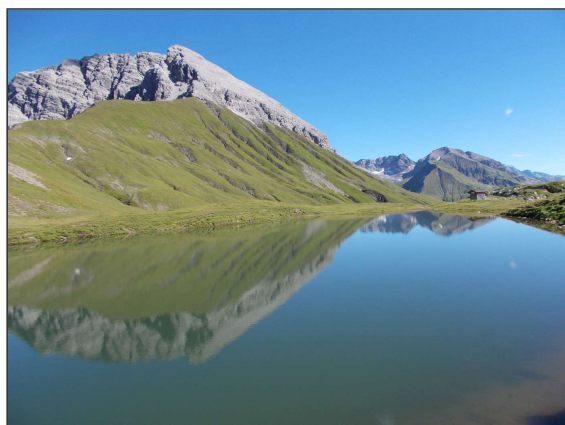
Day 3

A circuit above Lech Am Alberg

Using the Rüfikopt cable car from Lech we can start the hike at 7736 ft. After a visit to the interesting viewing platform the route takes us to the photogenic Monzabonsee lake. From there an undulating route leads to the Stuttgarten hut (7600 ft) and continues down to the village of Zürs where we take a bus back to Lech.

8 miles, 5 hours. Total ascent 1400 ft. Descent 3500 ft. Highest point 8000 ft.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Lech



Monzabonsee, near to Rüfikopt

Day 4

Lechweg section 2 – Lech Am Arlberg to Warth

The second section of the Lechweg passes through the village of Stubenbach then stays close to the river through a ravine, before a climb up to Warth.

However, if the weather is good we take the Oberlech chairlift to start the walk at 6300 ft. We soon pass a fascinating area of eroded Gypsum and continue to the farmstead and church at Burstegg. The well graded descent to Warth can be shortened by using a chairlift.

Finally we take a bus ride from Warth to Lech.

Lechweg

9 miles, 3 ½ hours. Total ascent 800 ft. Descent 600 ft. Highest point 4800 ft. or,
High route

9 miles, 5 hours. Total ascent 1700 ft. Descent 3100 ft. Highest point 6300 ft.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Lech.



Burstegg

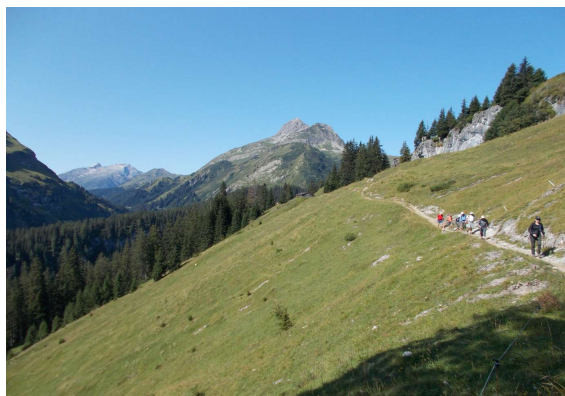
Day 5

Lechweg section 3 –Hägerau

The third section of the Lechweg starts at Warth which we reach by taking a short bus ride. The route passes through the hamlet of Lechleiten along easy tracks above the valley before dropping down to the village of Steeg. The trail continues along the side of the River Lech to our next hotel on the outskirts of the village of Hägerau.

12 miles, 5 ½ hours. Total ascent 1300 ft. Descent 2550 ft. Highest point 5100 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Lech and evening meal at Hägerau.



Near Lechleiten

Day 6

A day off

One popular option for this day off is a short walk to the village of Holzgau which is about a level mile from the hotel or a very short bus ride. The village has many huge frescos decorating the outside walls of houses, some of which date back to 1800. The parish church Maria Himmelfahrt (Assumption of the Virgin Mary) is well worth a visit and contains an unusual relic brought from Rome. A stroll down to the village of Bach (1 ½ hrs) for a lazy lunch before a bus back to Hägerau works well. Otherwise the excellent and inexpensive bus network allows some leisurely sightseeing.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Hägerau.



Holzgau

Day 7

Lechweg section 4 – Hägerau to Elbigenalp

The fourth section of the Lechweg passes through the village of Holzgau before climbing to cross the Hohenbacht valley via the splendid suspension bridge. The route passes the hamlet of Kraichen and then follows the river through Bach to Elbigenalp.

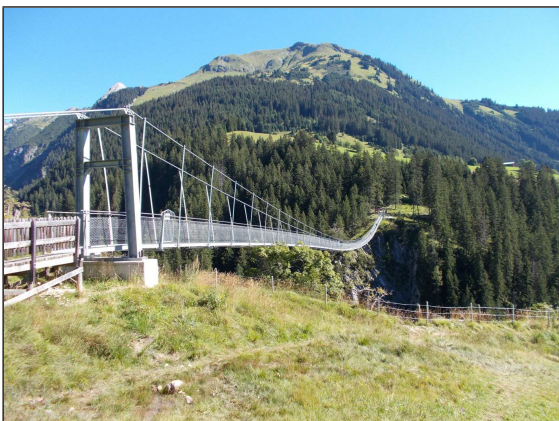
An alternative route takes the Jöchelspitzbahn cable car at Kraichen to follow a delightful high level route, the Alpenroseweg, followed by a well graded descent to Elbigenalp.

Lechweg

8 miles, 3 ½ hours. Total ascent 1100 ft. Descent 1200 ft. Highest point 4100 ft. or,
High route

12 miles, 6 hours. Total ascent 2200 ft. Descent 3900 ft. Highest point 6300 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Hägerau and evening meal at Elbigenalp



Holzgau suspension bridge

Day 8

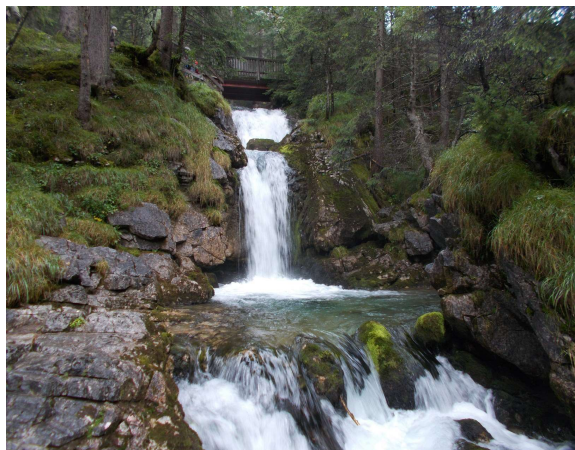
Lechweg section 5 – Elbigenalp to Stanzach

The fifth section of the Lechweg is on easy paths and forest tracks with several panoramic view points and attractive villages.

After the village of Haeselgehr the Lechweg passes the Doser waterfall – where the water comes from a cave and dries up on St. Martin's Day (November 11th) and springs back on St. George's Day (April 23rd). According to legend, a dragon is responsible for this - it lets the stream flow and disappear at the right times.

11 miles, 6 hours. Total ascent 1900 ft. Descent 2200 ft. Highest point 3600 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Elbigenalp. The hotel at Stanzach does not have a restaurant so we will need to eat at a local restaurant – cost of this meal is not included in the holiday price.



Doser Waterfall

Day 9

Lechweg section 6 – Stanzach to Höfen

Whilst the sixth section of the Lechweg follows the valley bottom to Höfen we usually choose a more interesting route. A short bus ride to Weissenbach from where we pass through the small village of Rieden and then climb on well graded forest tracks to the ruined Festung fortress (4161 ft) and Ehrenburg castle with stunning views over the Lech valley. The route continues down to our hotel in Höfen.

12 miles, 5 hours. Total ascent 1650 ft. Descent 1750 ft. Highest point 4161 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Stanzach. The hotel at Höfen does not have a restaurant and we will eat at the nearby town of Reutte. The cost of this meal is not included in the holiday price but the cost of transport to and from Reutte is included.



Festung fortress

Day 10

A day at Höfen

A **day off** again!

The interesting town of Reutte is a short bus ride away where there are plenty of shops, restaurants and a museum. On the outskirts of Höfen is a chairlift which goes up to 5679 ft and which gives access to many easy and less easy walks.

Meals: Breakfast at Höfen. The hotel at Höfen does not have a restaurant and we will eat at a restaurant a few minutes walk from the hotel – cost of this meal is not included in the holiday price.

Day 11

Lechweg section 7 – Höfen to Hohenschwangau(Germany)

A long section of the Lechweg takes us past an excellent bakery in Wangle, the Frauensee lake and through the village of Pflach and up over the border into Germany. The final section passes the Alpsee lake with good views of the castles of Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein.

13 miles, 6 hours. Total ascent 1700 ft. Descent 2000 ft. Highest point 3300 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Höfen and evening meal Hohenschwangau

Day 12

Visit to the Neuschwanstein castle and final section of the Lechweg to Füssen(Germany)

We will try and visit the castle as early as possible to avoid the crowds that build up during the day, this being one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. We will organise a booking for the whole group and arrange to collect the tickets. Payment can be made on the day.

The final section of the Lechweg passes between the Alpsee and Schwansee lakes before the final climb of the Lechweg to a hilltop chapel with good views over the rooftops of Füssen. A path leads down to the Lechfall waterfall the end of the Lechweg trail. A short walk through the town leads to our hotel. There should be time to explore the interesting town.

4 miles, 2 ½ hours. Total ascent 700 ft. Descent 700 ft. Highest point 3100 ft.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Füssen.



Neuschwanstein castle

Day 13

End of tour

The trip concludes after breakfast.

Accommodation

We will be staying mainly in a range of 3* and 4* hotels with 11 nights half board and one night bed & breakfast.

Important information concerning twin bed rooms - the Austrian standard "twin" bed can be a surprise. A twin bedroom in Austria is usually two mattresses made up as singles but in/on one frame - NOT to two separate beds. Rather too cosy for some people. We have managed to mainly find hotels that can provide twin bed rooms with two separate beds, but on one or two nights this cannot be guaranteed.

Baggage transfers

During the trip all baggage transfers will be arranged between hotels.

Local transport not included

There are three or four days when we expect to use local buses, cable cars and/or chairlifts. The cost of this is not included in the holiday price. This is principally because, in the event of poor weather, we may choose a low level hike which does not require transport.

What is not included

Getting to the first hotel at Lech Am Arlberg.

Transport away from the last hotel at Füssen.

Lunches. It will be possible to buy food in all the villages/towns where we stay.

Evening meals on three days when the hotels only provides bed & breakfast.

Medical & travel insurance.

Personal expenses including drinks at the hotel.

Entrance fees – Neuschwanstein will cost about 12€ per person.

What is included

Accommodation and meals as detailed above

Experienced guide for the whole trip

All baggage transfers between hotels