



**Collett's**  
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

**SELF-GUIDED HUT TO HUT**  
VIRGENTAL BALCONY TRAVERSE – 7 NIGHT ITINERARY  
EASIER MODERATE

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# VIRGENTAL BALCONY TRAVERSE

## 7 Night Itinerary - The Facts

This itinerary begins with 2 nights in a hotel in Matriei, allowing you to explore the area and ease yourself in with a day walk directly from the village, before commencing the 5-day 4-night hut to hut route. This will explore the scenic balcony paths of the Lasörling mountain group above the Virgental valley. Beginning above the pretty Tyrolean village of Virgen, you visit the idyllic Zupalsee lake below the Donnerstein ridge and head west along flower-strewn terrace paths, taking in far-reaching views of the glacial landscape of the Venediger Group. You pass through ancient farming hamlets, explore ancient woodland and visit traditional mountain Alms before two final gentler days ascending alongside the stunning Umbalfalle waterfalls before retracing your steps. Accommodation is a mix of mountain huts with basic yet comfortable facilities and a guesthouse on Day 5. An excellent introduction to a hut to hut experience in the Hohe Tauern.

## Terrain

This route uses waymarked trails which are usually straight-forward to navigate. Routes vary from well-trodden woodland and meadow paths to steeper trails on looser, steep terrain. There is a short section of moderate exposure on Day 4, where the route follows a steep-sided woodland traverse path protected by a short section of cable which serves as a handrail. Naturally, as the route takes place in the high mountains we recommend that you have hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights and an appropriate level of fitness. *Please note that routes in the high mountains, such as this one, may require you to cross patches of snow early in the season.*

Grade : Easier Moderate  
Walking Time : 3 to 6 hours per day (based on 3km/h)  
Ascent : 380m - 800m per day  
Descent : 450m - 1210m per day

*Please note that walking time does not include time taken for rests or lunch breaks and is an indication of how long the walking itself will take.*

## Dates & Prices

Early July to mid-September.

**£850 per person with Airport Transfer - Saturday (Munich) and Monday (Salzburg) only**

**£770 per person without Airport Transfer**

*Arrive on the day of your choice, except Wednesday which is our day off.*

*Bookings are subject to availability of the relevant accommodation - please do not confirm any travel arrangements until we have confirmed your accommodation arrangements.*

*Please note that this itinerary requires some use of public transport and private hut taxis – as bus service is limited service on Sundays, if arriving on a Friday you will be offered a shuttle in the Collett's vehicle on the morning of Day 3; this will require an early start.*

### Accommodation:

*Based on accommodation in dormitory style rooms in 3 mountain huts and private rooms in 4 guesthouse/hotels.*

**IMPORTANT:** *Some dormitories have platform bed arrangements; sleeping side by side in a row.*

*Lasörlinghütte and Clarahütte offer the option to upgrade to a private room, subject to a supplement of £15 per person per night.*

*Dormitories are mixed sex and vary in size from hut to hut. No single supplements apply for dormitory accommodation but are applied to private rooms. You must supply your own sleeping bag liners for all dormitory accommodation. Towels are not provided in most hut accommodation (but are in the 3 guesthouse/hotel nights) - please bring your own.*

## Included in the price

- *If required - return airport transfers from Munich (Saturday) or Salzburg (Monday) (Flights arriving must land before 3.00pm, and depart from Munich no earlier than 11:30am and from Salzburg no earlier than 10.30am - please see [www.colletts.co.uk/austria/hohe-tauern/travelling-to-matrei-in-the-austrian-alps](http://www.colletts.co.uk/austria/hohe-tauern/travelling-to-matrei-in-the-austrian-alps))*
- *7 nights' accommodation.*
- *Accommodation in Matriei for the first and second (Half Board), and last (B&B) nights of your trip.*
- *Breakfast and dinner in each hut.*
- *A meeting in Matriei on your first evening with our hut to hut host, to run through the route in detail and answer any questions.*
- *Detailed route laminates and relevant 1:50,000 map.*
- *Detailed pre-departure information including packing suggestions.*

## Not included in the price

- *Flights and insurance.*
- *Dinner on last night (dinner can be booked in accommodation or head out to local restaurant in Matriei)*
- *Lunches (lunch items are available for purchase at each accommodation) and drinks/snacks.*
- *Tokens for hot showers in certain huts (approx. €1 per 2 minutes)*
- *Hut taxi and buses - allow approx. €27 per person.*

# Route Information – VIRGENTAL BALCONY TRAVERSE

## Day 1 - Arrival in Matrei

Independent travel to Matrei or Collett's airport transfer from Salzburg or Munich airports. Settle in to accommodation before briefing with our hut to hut host before dinner.

**Overnight accommodation - Hotel/Guesthouse, Matrei (975m)**

## Day 2 - Free Day

Today is a free day to do an independent day walk to warm-up your legs, or to join one of our organised group walks. Our staff will be able to recommend a suitable route.

**Overnight accommodation – Hotel/Guesthouse, Matrei (975m)**

## Day 3 - Zupalsee Lake & Merschenhohe

**10km, 650m ascent, 450m descent** - Today is a relatively short first day, beginning with a bus ride (or early Collett's minibus shuttle if arriving on a Friday) to the village of Virgen and a jeep hut taxi to gain height and reach the Wetterkreuzhütte and the start of the walk. The route begins along a grassy crest before bearing west to contour a scenic balcony path to reach the idyllic lake alongside the Zupalseehütte. The lake, set high in the valley below the rocky peak of the Donnerstein, is surrounded by flower-strewn meadows and the views of the dramatic Venediger Group to the north. From the lake, the route continues to contour through meadows and rockier terrain past two smaller pools to reach the highest point of the route at the Merschenhohe, always with panoramic views. An initially steep but short-lived descent leads into the Mullitztal valley, where the characteristic octagonal building of the Lasörlinghütte sits below the highest mountain in the group.

**Overnight accommodation - Lasörlinghütte (2350m).**

## Day 4 - Bergeralm and Bergersee

**15km, 800m ascent, 1100m descent** – Today's walk is more challenging, beginning with a descent down the Mullitztal along a progressively widening valley. After passing through the traditional hamlet of Raineralm, the path then ascends through trees before taking an undulating forest path across a steep hillside. This section is moderately exposed and not well-trodden; there is a very short section of cable which serves as a handrail on the steepest section. You continue through the pretty hamlet of the Bergeralm, which serves local produce, before crossing picturesque flower meadows and taking in sweeping panoramic views to reach the idyllic Bergerseehütte and its lake, nestled in the cirque below the dramatic walls either side of the Bergertorl.

**Overnight accommodation - Bergerseehütte (2182m).**

## Day 5 - Muhs Panoramaweg & Lasnitzental

**12km, 380m ascent, 1210m descent** – Today's route is a continuation of the terrace path taken the previous day and offers similarly stunning views. The path ascends at a gentle gradient, with superb panoramic views over to the north and west, before reaching an unusual pyramidal sculpture at a viewpoint overlooking the Venediger Group and, behind you, a glimpse of the Grossglockner. The route then descends steadily to reach the dramatic, steep-sided valley of the Lasnitzental and a traditional mountain hut serving homemade cake. A long descent follows, taking the broad track below the hut. The final section of the descent is steep and can be challenging when wet. The route ends in the traditional village of Hinterbichl at the head of the Virgental, where you will spend the night.

**Overnight accommodation - Gasthof Isplitzer (1329m).**

## Day 6 - Ascending the Umbalfälle Waterfalls

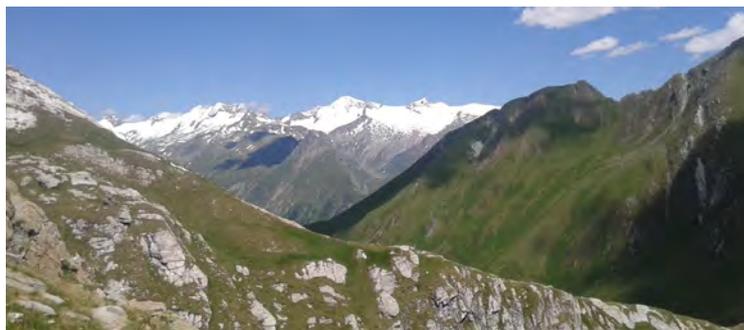
**10.5km, 780m ascent, 75m descent** – As a short day, today allows you to take your time. The route ascends alongside the dramatic cascading waterfalls of the Umbalfälle, passing numerous viewing platforms to reach the pretty and hospitable Clarahütte nestled high in the valley. This offers great views of the Umbalkees Glacier at the head of the valley.

**Overnight accommodation - Clarahütte (2038m)**

## Day 7 - Descending the Umbalfälle Waterfalls

**8.5km, 80m ascent, 710m descent** – The final day of the itinerary retraces yesterday's route and descends past the Umbalfälle waterfalls to catch a public bus from Ströden back to Matrei. (**NOTE:** If arriving in Matrei at the start of the week on a Monday, as the public bus does not run from Ströden on Sundays please note that on this Day 6 you will need to continue the walk on to Hinterbichl to catch the bus to Matrei. (Additional 2km))

**Overnight accommodation - B&B, Matrei (975m)**



## At Your Own Risk

*You do this itinerary at your own risk and on the understanding that these routes were accurate at the time of writing. Please be aware that conditions can change at any time and that this itinerary relies on your sound judgement and decision making throughout.*

*Our self-guided hut to hut itineraries are put together on a basis of goodwill so that you might enjoy a route you may not otherwise have discovered. It represents nothing more than the opportunity to walk in a wonderful yet mountainous walking area with logistical arrangements taken care of for you.*

*It is a fact that mountains, mountainous areas and activities undertaken in them are associated with personal injury and death. By coming to such areas, you are exposing yourself and your party to the possibility of personal injury or even death. In such an event, Collett's Mountain Holidays will not be held responsible for your interest in mountainous areas and your involvement in mountain pursuits, which can occasionally have tragic consequences.*

*It is important that you understand that these routes are put together using our extensive knowledge of the area, to provide a route which we believe will be enjoyable and realistic for people who decide that they have the appropriate level of fitness and ability in order to complete the itinerary safely. The information provided uses only marked paths which are in use at the time of writing. However, it is your responsibility to continually assess the suitability and safety of the route throughout the walk and to undertake any action necessary to avoid any terrain, which each or any member of the group is not comfortable with. The route choice also assumes an ability to read maps and navigate competently.*

*It is the responsibility of each individual in the group to make an assessment of the information provided, and to make an informed decision about whether the itinerary is suitable for them.*

*Finally, during your holiday with Collett's Mountain Holidays you act at your own risk on any ideas, information and opinions you might acquire from our team members in Matrei or from material prepared by Collett's to help you get the most from the area.*

