



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

SELF-GUIDED HUT TO HUT

VENEDIGER HOHENWEG – 7 NIGHT ITINERARY

HARD/VERY HARD

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VENEDIGER HOHENWEG

7 Night Itinerary - The Facts

This route has been tailor-made to pick out the gems of the area and cover sections of the dramatic Venediger Hohenweg, a high-altitude route which traverses the glacial terrain of the Venediger mountain group. The itinerary spends two days exploring the Gschlosstal valley with two circular routes with dramatic glacial views of Austria's fourth highest mountain. A taxi ride then takes you to the eastern end of the range, where you will cross a variety of challenging terrain and mountain passes as you explore the many remote balconies, ending with a final day on the neighbouring Lasörling mountain group. Accommodation is provided in a mix of valley guesthouses and mountain huts. This is a serious mountain route with some very long days, which will appeal to walkers with experience of alpine terrain and scrambling, a good head for heights and good fitness, rewarding with some of the best views in the Hohe Tauern.

Terrain

The walk follows waymarked trails and routes, but some sections can be difficult to navigate, particularly in bad visibility, so a strong competence with navigation and map reading is essential. There are various short sections of cable protecting the more exposed sections of the walk. Terrain varies from good obvious paths, to narrow trails, scree and loose rocky sections, particularly in the higher peaks. The route includes exposed sections and you should have good hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights, as well as a good level of fitness to walk for long consecutive days.

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 : Hard/Very Hard
Walking Time : 7 – 10 hours per day (based on 3km/h)
Ascent : 920m - 1750m per day
Descent : 950m - 1600m 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

Late 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, our local day off.

Bookings are subject to availability of relevant accommodation - please do not confirm any travel arrangements until we have confirmed availability of your accommodation on your chosen dates. Please note that this itinerary requires some use of public transport – as bus service is limited service on Sundays, if arriving on a Saturday you will be offered a shuttle in the Collett's vehicle on the morning of Day 2; 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.*

Essener Rostocker Hütte & Clarahütte offer the option to upgrade to a limited number of private rooms, 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 upgrades to private rooms. You must supply your own sleeping bag liners for all dormitory accommodation. Towels are not provided in any hut accommodation (but are in the 4 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)*
- *7 nights' accommodation. Accommodation in Matrei for the first (Half Board), and last (B&B) nights of your trip.*
- *Breakfast and dinner in each hut.*
- *Taxi ride on Day 4.*
- *A meeting in Matrei 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, and 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 Matrei)*
- *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 taxis and buses - allow approx. €17 per person.*

Route Information – VENEDIGER HOHENWEG

Day 1 - Arrival in Matri

Independent travel to Matri 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 - Matri (975m)

Day 2 - St Poltner Hütte and Lakes

16km, 1160m ascent, 1000m descent - Today is a quiet and scenically rewarding route to start the week, passing three mountain tarns to the St Poltner Hütte, offering far-reaching views over the Kitzbuheler Alps and the Kaisergebirge. There is the possibility of some late-lying snow on this north-facing route. The day begins with a short bus (or early Collett's minibus shuttle if arriving on a Saturday) to the Matreier Tauernhaus. A steep ascent of the valley side brings you to a series of three alpine lakes and rockier terrain, before a section of cable protects a rocky buttress and finally crosses looser rock to reach the well-positioned St Poltner Hütte (2481m). The descent route is quite direct and brings you back down to the Gschlosstal valley bottom, from where a track leads to the pretty hamlet of Innerschlöss.

Overnight accommodation – Venedigerhaus (1689m).

Day 3 – Schlattenkees Glacier and Löbbentörl

20km, 1250m ascent, 1400m descent – Today you walk in the shadow of the Gross Venediger, Austria's fourth highest mountain, and its glaciers. You continue deeper into the valley before ascending alongside a waterfall and passing two small tarns. From here an out-and-back route ascends a shoulder of a glacial moraine to gain up-close views of the Schlattenkees glacier, before the terrain turns steeper and more rugged, crossing boulders to reach the Löbbentörl pass (2770m) with stunning open views. You retrace your steps to continue the circular route and back down to the valley bottom, to descend the valley all the way to the Matreier Tauernhaus. This final wooded valley descent can be shortened by taking a tractor-train from Innerschlöss (approx. 4km), or made easier by following a tarmac track instead.

Overnight accommodation – Matreier Tauernhaus (1512m).

Day 4 – Wallhorner Terrace and Eisseehütte

13km, 1320m ascent, 410m descent – The morning begins with a taxi ride to the hamlet of Budam in the Virgental before a long and steep ascent to join a beautiful balcony path. This skirts the hillside, resplendent with high alpine flora, to reach the idyllic Eisseehütte nestled at the head of the valley, where you will spend the night. There is also an optional extension to view the picturesque azure waters of the Eissee lake above the hut via a pleasant circular route (4km, 200 metres of ascent and descent).

Overnight accommodation – Eisseehütte (2521m).

Day 5 – Zopetscharte Col and Turmljoch

13km, 1100m ascent, 1400m descent – Today's route begins with an ascent of the Zopetscharte Col. After crossing the saddle you descend steeply to reach the Johannishütte in the valley, an ideal stop of a morning coffee. You then begin the ascent to the dramatic Turmljoch pass, offering superb glacial views which continue throughout the descent into the Mauertal, a broad and attractive valley surrounded by steep glacial walls. On reaching the valley floor, a stroll through the meadows leads to the Essener Rostocker Hütte. From here, there is an optional ascent to the summit of Rostocker Eck above the hut (5km, 550 metres of ascent) or a shorter extension to the Simonysee lake (3km, 150 metres of ascent).

Overnight accommodation – Essener Rostocker Hütte (2208m).

Day 6 - Quirlwand Traverse and Umbaltal

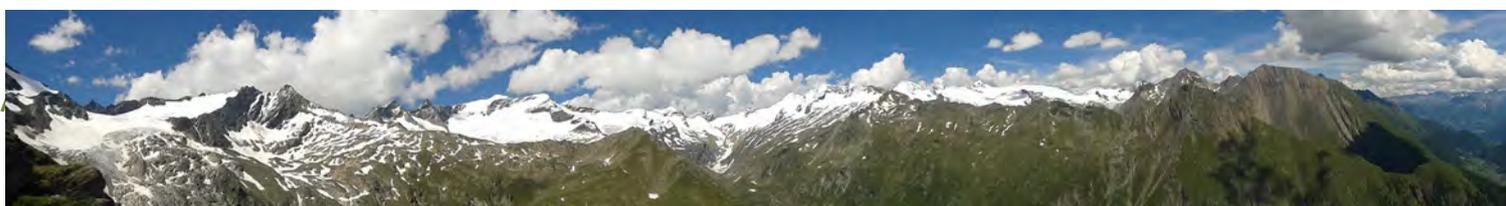
12km, 920m ascent, 1050m descent Today's walk is a challenging day in all respects. The route begins with a short descent down the pretty Mauertal before fording a stream and ascending a steep and exposed grassy hillside. There are sporadic sections of loose cable along the route. On reaching the crest, the route continues to ascend to the Hochkarscharte col on loose terrain, rewarding with stunning, close-up views of the red rock Quirl. The descent is long and must be carefully navigated, but rewards with a truly remote and alpine atmosphere and excellent views. You eventually reach the Umbaltal valley and ascend to the idyllic Clarahütte nestled into the hillside. Please note: This route should only be attempted in good and stable weather conditions, with clear visibility, and by parties with freedom from vertigo and surefootedness. If in any doubt, the alternative valley route should be taken instead (**14.5km, 750m ascent, 800m descent**).

Overnight accommodation – Clarahütte (2038m).

DAY 7 - Dabertal and Kleinbachtal

18km, 970m ascent, 1600m descent. The final day of the tour ascends the scenic Dabertal valley, surrounded by tall rock walls of and the striking white rock left behind by the former glacier. The ascent of the valley leads to the Neuen Reichenberger Hütte on the shores of Bodensee, offering a good refreshment break. From here, a final ascent to the Rote Lenke rewards with a direct view to the Grossglockner and the Glocknerwand, before a descent of the pretty Kleinbachtal valley leads to Ströden and then on to Hinterbichl in the Virgental, from where a bus journey takes you back to Matri. Today is a very long day, and should you miss the last bus back to Matri (approx 17:45), you will need to call a taxi from Ströden to take you back. Settle in to accommodation in Matri, head out for dinner in the village.

Overnight accommodation: B&B, Matri (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.

