



**Collett's**  
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

## SELF-GUIDED HUT TO HUT

ZUGSPITZ ARENA & WETTERSTEIN TOUR – 7 NIGHT ROUTE

HARD ITINERARY

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# ZUGSPITZ ARENA & WETTERSTEIN TOUR

## 7 Night Route - The Facts

This route takes in all four of the mountain ranges that converge on the Zugspitz Arena. It also crosses the German border and goes quite deep into the wilder Wetterstein range within Bavaria. Varied and challenging, the tour visits the dramatic Hollentalklamm (*Hell's Valley*) gorge via a series of tunnels, bridges and engineered footpaths, which pass under gushing waterfalls. On the final day, you ascend the Zugspitze, Germany's highest peak at 2962m, with its impressive 360° views. You also follow sections of two European long-distance trails: the E4 and Via Alpina. To increase scope and access, lifts, buses and a train are used during the week.

## Terrain

You walk exclusively on easy-to-navigate waymarked routes, but some sections can be tricky to follow, particularly in bad visibility, so competence with map reading is required. Terrain varies from gravel tracks, narrow paths and loose rocky trails, particularly in the higher peaks. The route includes exposed sections and you should have some hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights and a good level of fitness. Early season walkers should be aware that crossing patches of snow might be necessary in early season in higher areas.

Grade : Hard  
Walking Time : 5 to 7 hours per day (based on 3km/h)  
Ascent : 589m - 1646m per day  
Descent : 282m - 1613m per day

*Walking times do not include rests or lunch breaks.*

## Dates & Prices

Mid-July to Mid-September - with limited availability in August when the huts and alms are particularly busy.

**£850 per person with Airport Transfer (Thursday and Saturday 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.*

### **Accommodation:**

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

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

*Kreuzekhaus & Coburger Hütte offer the option to upgrade to a private room, subject to a supplement of £15 per person per night.*

*All 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 3 hotel nights) - please bring your own.*

## Included in the price

- *If required - return airport transfers from Munich. (Flights arriving in Munich must land before 5.00pm, and depart from Munich no earlier than 10.30am - please see [www.colletts.co.uk/austria/travel](http://www.colletts.co.uk/austria/travel))*
- *B&B accommodation at Hotel in Ehrwald for the first and last night of your trip.*
- *Breakfast and dinner each walk day.*
- *All accommodation.*
- *Detailed route laminates.*
- *Relevant map.*
- *Detailed pre-departure information including packing suggestions.*

## Not included in the price

- *Flights.*
- *Insurance.*
- *Dinner on first and last night.*
- *Lunches (lunch items are available for purchase at each hut and hotel).*
- *Drinks/snacks and any other purchases in the accommodation.*
- *Lifts/cable cars, buses/trains gorge entry - allow approx. €43 per person or €65 per person if you choose to visit the Zugspitze on Day 7.*

# Route Information - Zugspitz Arena & Wetterstein Tour

## Day 1 – Arrival in Ehrwald

Independent travel to Ehrwald by car or train, or Collett's airport transfer from Munich airport to Ehrwald (approx. 2hrs, Thursday or Saturday). Settle into accommodation. **Overnight (B&B) accommodation – B&B, Ehrwald (1000m)**

## Day 2 – Grüner Ups to Wolfrathäuser Hütte

**12.7km, 1212m ascent, 917m descent** – A short bus ride followed by a steep wooded ascent finds you traversing mountain pastures to the high shoulder of Grüner Ups (1852m) with superb views of the Arena and the three other mountain ranges that converge to make this impressive natural bowl. You continue down to the TuftlAlm, a great coffee stop, and then on to the village of Lermoos to take a cable car partway up the Lechtaler range. The final ascent takes you to the impressively positioned Wolfrathäuser Hütte; its sun terrace offers unrivalled views of the Zugspitze and the Arena. **Overnight accommodation - Wolfrathäuser Hütte (1751m)**

## Day 3 – Blindsee & Mittersee Lakes to Coburger Hütte

**16.4km, 957m ascent, 1291m descent** – Today you leave the Lechtaler range and continue around the Arena to the dramatic limestone peaks of the Mieminger mountains, initially visiting the stunning deep waters of Blindsee lake and then the shallower swimming waters of Mittersee lake. A chair lift, followed by a high level narrow traverse and zig zagging ascent brings you to the Biberwierer Scharte (2000m) – a narrow pass between the iconic Sonnenspitze peak and the Wamperter Schrofen. The Coburger Hütte sits high above the stunning turquoise waters of Seebensee lake. You can drop off your bags and descend to the lake (2km, 250m descent/ascent return), or you can stay high and visit the Drachensee lake before settling into the hut. **Overnight accommodation - Coburger Hütte (1917m)**

## Day 4 – Mieminger Passes & Corries

**18.7km, 801m ascent, 1613m descent** – You start the day ascending to the Tajatörl (2259m), a high pass between the towering peaks of the Griesspitze and the Hinterer Tajakopf, before descending into a moonscape-like cirque, where herds of Gams (Chamois) are often found. From a second pass, beneath Igelskopf peak (2224m) you descend into a second more remoted cirque and pass a climbers' hut built into a rock face. A mix of tracks, woodland footpaths and ski pistes then bring you down to the edge of Ehrwald and a comfortable night's rest. This is a big day, which can be shortened by using the cable car to descend to Ehrwald. **Overnight accommodation – Guesthouse Tannenhof, Ehrwald (1000m)**

## Day 5 – Hollentalklamm (Hell's Valley Gorge) to Kreuzeckhaus

**13.6km, 1646m ascent, 733m descent** – A short train ride takes you across the German border to Untergrainau, a pretty Bavarian hamlet on the outskirts of Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the beginning of the morning's showstopper - Hell's Valley Gorge. You explore this dramatic and tight-walled gorge via a series of engineered footpaths, tunnels, steps and bridges. You visit the Hollentalangerhütte, which serves excellent food on its large terrace, and offers expansive views of the dramatic valley beneath the Zugspitze glacier and summit. An impressive balcony footpath with sections of fixed cable brings you back and high above the gorge to your highest point of the day (approx. 1900m) and offers 360° views to the distant flatter German plains and the Kreuzeckhaus just below. **Overnight accommodation – Kreuzeckhaus (1651m)**

## Day 6 – Reintal Valley & the E4 to Knorrhütte

**15km, 1109m ascent, 701m descent** – Today you have excellent views of the towering ridgeline of the border with Austria and can make out King Ludwig's infamous hunting lodge perched on a plateau beneath the border. A descending balcony path brings you to the valley bottom of the Reintal valley, a deep valley that almost dissects the Wetterstein range. Passing alongside the crystal-clear waters of the Partnach river, you steadily ascend this vast valley before a final steep zigzagging path brings you to the top of the head wall and the impressively perched Knorrhütte, where your bed awaits. The hut is based at the bottom end of the Zugspitz bowl in a barren moonscape-like location, towered over by a horseshoe of seemingly inaccessible 2500m+ peaks including Germany's highest. **Overnight accommodation – Knorrhütte (2051m)**

## Day 7 – Zugspitz Bowl & Summit

**Option 1 – 7.6km, 589m ascent, 282m descent** – Your sights are set on the summit of the Zugspitze today and as a relatively short day it means you have plenty of time to spend on top and take in the views from its viewing platforms. You ascend across scree slopes and the moonscape wilderness of the Zugspitz bowl carved out by an ancient glacier, until you reach the retreating Zugspitze glacier (which has year-round sledging) and the Sonn-Alpin cable car station, which will take you directly to the summit. Or you could scramble via a protected path with fixed cable all the way to the summit along the border ridge (adding 400m ascent) – only in good weather and for those with a very good head for heights and surefootedness.

**Option 2 – 10km, 204m ascent, 874m descent** – Alternatively, you can skip the Zugspitze summit, traverse across the base of the Zugspitz bowl, high above yesterday's Reintal valley, and pass through the Gatterl; the old border gate between Germany and Austria. Descending into more open pastureland passing working farms and huts, you then take a cable car before a final riverside path brings you back to Ehrwald to complete the tour. **Overnight (B&B) accommodation – B&B, Ehrwald (1000m)**



## 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 Ehrwald or from material prepared by Collett's to help you get the most from the area.*

