



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

SELF-GUIDED HUT TO HUT

ZUGSPITZ ARENA CIRCUIT – 3 NIGHT ROUTE

MODERATE ITINERARY

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ZUGSPITZ ARENA CIRCUIT

3 Night Route - The Facts

In 4 days of walking you explore two of the four main ranges that converge to form the Zugspitz Arena; the Mieminger and the Lechtaler, bridged by the pretty meadows of the Moos valley in the middle. These mountains are characterised by alpine lakes, 3 of which you will skirt the shorelines of, and towering limestone cliffs that loom over your footpaths. You pass through the three traditional Tirolean villages of the Arena; Ehrwald, Lermoos and Biberwier, with flower filled window boxes and onion-domed churches. Access is assisted by ascending and descending on a cable car near Ehrwald. The accommodation is a wonderful mix of two Alms (working farms and a remote hut in a high cirque. The route has a bit of everything and is an excellent introduction to the area.

Terrain

This route uses waymarked trails which are straight-forward to navigate. Routes vary from well-trodden woodland paths and meadow tracks to steeper trails on looser, steep, rocky terrain. There is a short section of moderate exposure on Day 3. Naturally, in the high mountains, we recommend that you have hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights and a good 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 :	Moderate
Walking Time :	3 to 5 hours per day (based on 3km/h)
Ascent :	215m - 841m per day
Descent :	121m - 980m 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-June to Mid-September, with limited availability in August when the huts and alms are particularly busy.

£290 per person

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.

Accommodation:

Based on half-board accommodation in dormitory style rooms in 3 mountain huts/alms.

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

Coburger Hütte has the option to upgrade to a private room - this is 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 private rooms.

You must supply your own sleeping bag liners for all dormitory accommodation.

Towels are not provided in any hut/alm accommodation (but are in the 3 hotel nights) - please bring your own.

Included in the price

- *Breakfast and dinner in each hut.*
- *3 night's hut accommodation.*
- *Detailed route laminates.*
- *Relevant map.*
- *Detailed pre-departure information including packing suggestions.*

Not included in the price

- *Accommodation in Ehrwald on either side of your tour.*
- *Flights.*
- *Insurance.*
- *Lunches (lunch items are available for purchase at each hut).*
- *Drinks/snacks and any other purchases in the accommodation.*
- *Cable cars and buses - allow approx. €25 per person, or €35 if you choose to shorten Day 3 plus return by bus on Day 4.*

Route Information - Zugspitz Arena Circuit

Day 1 – Seebensee & Drachensee Lakes

8.9km, 642m ascent, 121m descent – Today is a relatively short day and allows for a relaxed pace and start to the trek. It begins with a riverside walk to then take a cable car from the edge of Ehrwald. Passing through grazing pastures and woodland, a good track takes you up and out of the tree-line to the stunning turquoise waters of Seebensee. This lake, set high in a hanging valley in the Mieminger range, surrounded by towering limestone peaks, including the iconic Sonnenspitze peak (2417m), is certainly the most impressive in the area and time should be spent at its shoreline for a leisurely lunch and paddle. From the lake, a final rockier and steeper ascent offers a stunning bird's eye view of Seebensee. At 1917m the Coburger Hütte is your highest and remotest bed for the night, perched above a second lake, Drachensee.

Overnight accommodation – Dormitory, Coburger Hütte (1917m)

Day 2 – Tajatörl Pass and Brendlsee

9.2km, 548m ascent and 735m descent – You ascend from the Coburger Hutte high above Drachensee into more challenging higher-level terrain, to the Tajatörl, a mountain pass at 2259m. The descent takes you into a stunningly remote corrie with a final steeper descent across a scree covered hillside before briefly rejoining yesterday's woodland track and making your way to a working farm and alm. The Hochfeldern Alm is superbly located - with the sheer walls of the Wetterstein mountains behind, the spires and pinnacles of the Mieminger range in front, and to the west the Karwendel mountains above Seefeld and Innsbruck. Should you need it, it is possible to retrace your steps from yesterday to make an easier route to the Hochfeldern Alm.

Overnight accommodation – Dormitory, Hochfeldern Alm (1732m)

Day 3 – The Moos & Hidden Valley

13.3km, 841m ascent, 426m descent – The day starts with a short descent to reach the cable car station and descent back to Ehrwald. You then pass through Ehrwald and cross to the other side of the Zugspitz Arena via the Moos – a meadow forming the valley floor. From the village of Lermoos you ascend into the quiet Gartnertal valley and pass the Gartner Alm, a quaint and friendly working farm, perfect for a coffee and piece of homemade cake. As you ascend this hidden valley, the views of the Gartner Wand knife-edge ridgeline are sure to impress. The final ascent to the impressively positioned Wolfrathäuser Hütte follows a steep zigzagging path, where most of the day's ascent is achieved, followed by a short narrow section and hand rope. The hut's sun-terrace and views of the Zugspitze and the Arena are hard to rival.

Overnight accommodation – Dormitory, Wolfrathäuser Hütte (1751m)

Day 4 - Blindsee & Mittersee Lakes

14.4km, 215m ascent, 980m descent – Today you begin with a traverse of the Lechtaler range, before a long but steady descent of the mountainside offering spectacular views of the three lakes in the valley below. You will skirt the shoreline of the deep blue waters of Blindsee lake and then the shallower waters of Mittersee lake, which is perfect for a paddle or a swim. The route brings you through woodland to emerge at the pretty village of Biberwier with its onion-domed church. From here you have the option to catch a bus back to Ehrwald and shorten the day by 3.5.km, otherwise you continue through the village and then follow riverside and meadow path back to Ehrwald.



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.

