

Dachstein Hiking Tour

Guide to 8 beautiful trekking stages





Sulzenalm with the Bischofsmütze behind (tl), springtime in the hills along the Austriaweg (bl) Ramsau high pastures at the foot of the Dachstein (tr), north view of the Dachstein incl. Gosau glacier (br)

In 8 daily stages, the Dachstein Tour serves as your gateway to the beautiful, diverse landscapes of the Dachstein, the “showpiece of the northern Limestone Alps”.

The starting point is Gosau or, more precisely, the shore of the Gosausee, one of the most spectacularly scenic spots on the entire route. The destination for our first day is the Hopfürgl Hut above Filzmoos, a grandiose box seat at the foot of the Bischofsmütze. And the backdrop accompanying our path changes daily: initially the limestone pinnacles of the Gosaukamm with beautiful alpine pastures and flower-covered meadows, changing abruptly on the 3rd day of trekking as if at the stroke of a gong.

The ride up on the Dachstein Glacier Lift is a memorable experience in its own right – and to make it utterly unforgettable, plan your trekking tour so that

your schedule allows you to take the “Sunrise Gondola”, a compelling way to enjoy a beautiful sunrise at 2700 m above sea level (timetable available on request).

Your advantage: attractive package prices including lift ride and breakfast. Which also means, you get an early start to the next stage. And this begins on the Hunerkogel, leads via the glacier, then across the landscapes of “am Stein”, promising an array of fascinating sights, as far as the Gutenberg Haus, high above Ramsau.

Dark forests teeming with wild game and high pastures are your companions on the hike to the Stoderzinken (overnight accommodations, fantastic lookout point), and via the Viehbergalm to Bad Mitterndorf. There it is the mysterious karst springs and paths alongside crystal-clear, untamed rivers and hidden forest tarns that

make the hike through the Ausseerland so captivating and rich in variety. The last two days of trekking then lead through the Inner Salzkammergut. This is your path through a wilderness along the Koppentraun out to Obertraun and Hallstatt. An absolute high point: a World Heritage site, the world’s oldest salt mine, Lake Hallstättersee, Celtic finds and ...

The tour along the Saltwater Path from Hallstatt to Bad Goisern (on the Hallstättersee) is significantly different from the previous stages, granting us insights into the work and importance of “white gold” – salt.

For the final stage, one last major uphill hike proves necessary, to the Goiserer Hut. The beautiful views and the hut villages justify the 1,000 vertical meters in gains and downhill, until we finally return to our original starting point in Gosau.



Hallstatt Glacier incl. Dirndl and Hoher Dachstein (top); Gosausee with the jagged limestone towers of the Gosaukamm - an "alpine lagoon" (bl); Sunrise on the Hunerkogel - mountain terminal of the Dachstein Glacier Lift (br)

Requirements and General Information

During this hiking tour, you will occasionally find yourself in high-alpine terrain, requiring appropriate hiking gear (good footwear, functional clothing, rucksack, provisions, protection from rain and sun, first-aid kit, mobile phone,...), as well as good physical fitness. We also recommend signing in to the hiking registers located at alpine huts.

The hiking paths are clearly signposted, though snow still on the ground may possibly obscure trail markings. You should absolutely take maps and the Dachstein Hiking Guide with you. Experienced hiking guides are available by arrangement.

Please note that completion of this particular tour is dependent on weather, and that alternative hiking opportunities always exist.

Booking Address:

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Enjoyable Short Tour - 3 nights

Package: 3 nights incl. alpine breakfast (1 x ***inn/hotel,
 2 x mountain huts – dorms either with beds or mattresses, sleeping bag required for the huts)
 1 x hiking map
 1 x Dachstein Hiking Guide
 1 x train ride from Bad Aussee to Gröbming
 1 x passenger transfer from Gröbming station to the Steinerhaus
 2 x luggage transfers

Sommercard Special - 5 nights

Package: 5 nights incl. alpine breakfast (4 x ***inns/hotels,
 1 x mountain hut - dorms either with beds or mattresses, sleeping bag required for the hut, running water available)
 1 x ride on the Dachstein Glacier Lift; 1 x Schladming-Dachstein Sommercard including use of the following: Planai cable car, Rittisberg lift, Hochwurzen summit lift, Schladminger Tauern cable car
 Toll roads: Dachstein road, Reiteraln road, Ursprung road etc.
 Hiking taxi, all public buses in Ramsau / Dachstein, hiking shuttles
 Swimming lakes & pools, museums, various sports and hiking opportunities, programs for families and children; 1 x luggage transfer; 1 x hiking map; 1 x Dachstein Hiking Guide; 1 x passenger transfer from Steiner Haus Gröbming - Türlwand/Ramsau or the village of Ramsau



The Neustattalm at the foot of the Dachstein south face

Focal Point - the Dachstein

A gigantic limestone reef with powerful south walls, towering upwards from green alpine pastures to the heavens. This is the sight that greets hikers from the south. White glaciers form the imposing backdrop for an enormous high-country area, whose light rocky domes surprise with ancient pine trees and meadows bedecked in flowers. Glistening lakes adorn themselves with reflections of the Dachstein. Mysterious karst springs and dark forest tarns are connected to the glacier below ground, accompanying you on your travels through the Salzkammergut. Communities under the Dachstein's spell: Gosau, Annaberg, Filzmoos and Ramsau, alpine villages to the west and south of the Dachstein. The experiences and tales of pilgrims, bible smugglers, mineral prospectors and mountaineers have made significant contributions to the traditions of these places.

Bad Mitterndorf, Bad Aussee, Obertraun, Hallstatt and Bad Goisern serve occasionally as our daily stopping points, occasionally as fascinating sites for those retracing the past. Geologists, literary figures and artists have always been compelled by the landscapes surrounding the Dachstein. Adalbert Stifter, Friedrich von Simony, Friedrich Thorberg, Peter Rosegger, Archduke John... to name but a few, have placed the Dachstein in center stage, describing it in their works with awe and wonder.

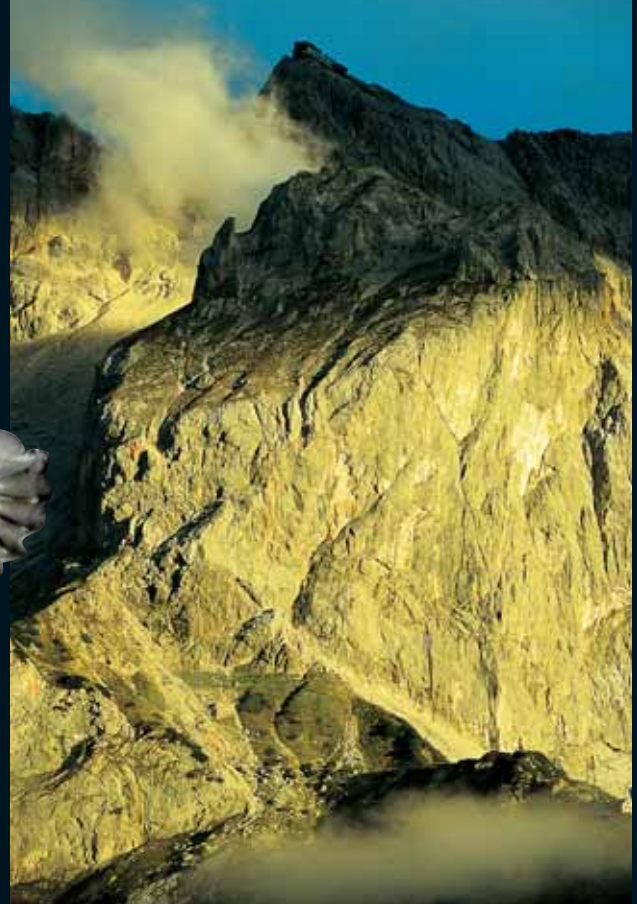
The Dachstein, Hallstatt and the Salzkammergut are all part of the illustrious World Heritage region – a distinction which raises the Dachstein as an alpine personality above the mass of other three-thousanders. Even though it is actually only 2,996 m in height.

Dachstein und Gosaukamm, Coral Reefs, up to 3,000 m above sea level

The Dachstein and Gosaukamm are indeed an enormous, fossilized coral reef, which today rises to almost 3,000m above sea level. During this tour, hikers are constantly walking on the fissured floor of a primordial ocean (the Tethys Sea, dating back to the Triassic) and, if they pay a little bit of attention, are able to discover a wealth of fossilized sea creatures, incl. corals, snails, shellfish and ammonites. If the topic fascinates you, Gapp stonecutter's in Gosau and Plut



Minerals in Ramsau will hold special interest for you. Particularly famous is the Cowprint Shell (given this name by the locals due to its heart-shaped outline); the scientific term, however, is Megalodon. The limestone banks of the south face, traditionally associated with the Dachstein, are some 200 million years old and were formed in the quiet waters of a tropical lagoon, holding remnants of millions upon millions of deceased aquatic creatures.



Evening mood at the Dachstein Südwand Hut – View toward the Dachstein Mountain Terminal



The Austriaweg near the Stuhlalm (left); Ancient weathered pine tree on the Rinderfeld - Linzerweg (r)

In the Footsteps of the Bible Smugglers

The first two daily stages, along the Austria-, Linzer- and Pernerweg trails, are identical with the Ramsau Bible Trail, a smugglers' path along which, during the Counter Reformation and at great peril, bibles from southern Germany were smuggled into protestant Ramsau. A variety of fates awaited residents of Bad Goisern, Gosau and Ramsau, if they were not prepared to renounce their protestant faith ...

10-Night Tour (Standard tour for "serious" hikers incl. extra rest days)

Package: 10 nights incl. alpine breakfast (6 x ***inns/hotels, 4 x mountain huts – dorms either with beds or mattresses, sleeping bag required for the huts! 1 x ride on the cable car to the Zwieselalm
1 x ride on the Dachstein Glacier Lift; 1 x Schladming-Dachstein Sommercard; 1 x train ride from Bad Mitterndorf to Bad Aussee; 1 x ferry ride Obertraun – Hallstatt; 1 x ride on the Salzberg train; 5 x luggage transfer, 1 x hiking map; 1 x Dachstein Hiking Guide.

8 Stages – An Overview

1) Gosausee – Hofpürglhütte: Gosausee – Hofpürgl Hut:

along the Austriaweg at the foot of the Gosaukamm to the Hofpürgl hut below the Bischofsmütze

2) Hofpürgl Hut – Dachstein Südwand Hut:

Linzer- & Pernerweg trails – under the thrall of the Dachstein south face

3) Dachstein Südwand Hut - Hunerkogel – Guttenberg Haus:

reaching for new heights, glacier hike across the landscapes of “am Stein”

4) Guttenberghaus – Stoderzinken:

across alpine pastures “am Stein” to scenic Stoderzinken summit

5) Stoderzinken – Bad Mitterndorf:

via the Notgasse, Viehbergalm and remote peaks to the Steinitzenalm or Bad Mitterndorf

6) Salzkammergut – Hallstatt:

level paths alongside the stream: moors, karst springs, still forest tarns and the Salzkammerweg to Hallstatt

7) Hallstatt – Bad Goisern:

along the Saltwater Path high above the Hallstättersee to Bad Goisern alpine variant with view of the glacier

8) Bad Goisern – Gosau:

on steep paths above the Goiserer Hut to Gosau.



The Dachstein Hiking Tour runs along preexisting trails, but is separately marked at major trail crossings. The daily stages correspond to about 4-6 hours of hiking at a standard pace. The hiking guide lists important variants, as well as opportunities along the way to descend back to valley towns, plus transportation options (train or ship), if you ever prefer to plan a somewhat easier tour.

You should set aside time to acquaint yourself with the history of this mountain, tales of which abound. For without this history, the tour would only be half as

exciting – though the magnificent landscapes would perhaps be cause enough to add this hike to your all-time list of the most beautiful alpine treks.

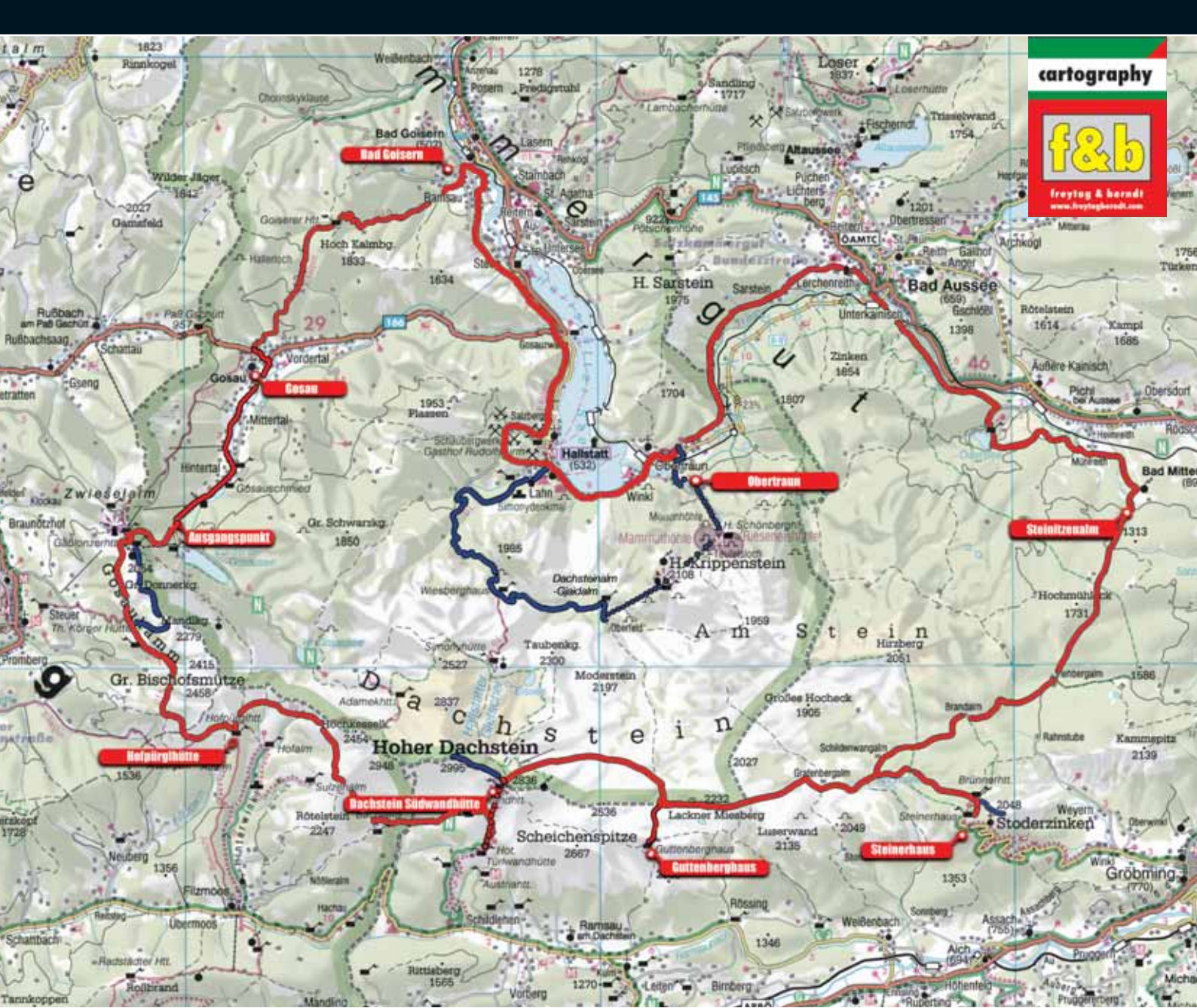
And ably assisted by the new Dachstein Hiking Guide:

In a practical pocket-size format, it provides trail descriptions, along with many attractive photos, allowing you to consciously enjoy the nature and scenery surrounding the Dachstein.

The guide also integrates a wealth of remarkable stories and legends about



people who left their mark on the Dachstein.



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ELEVATION PROFILE



DAILY STAGES



Hallstatt on the Hallstättersee. Millennia-old salt mines, along with famous Celtic graves & finds have left their mark on this romantic place to the north of the Dachstein.

View of the Hallstättersee from the Krippenstein

World Heritage Region: Hallstatt, “White Gold” and the world’s oldest pipeline

In contrast, the mountains of the Hasel Gebirge to the north of the Dachstein massif greet us with a unique geological feature: magnificent chambers of salt were discovered there more than 4,000 years ago.

To this very day, “white gold” continues to be mined above Hallstatt in “the world’s oldest salt mine”.

With its 7,000-year-old past, Hallstatt holds all kinds of activities in store for history buffs: the Celtic grave finds, the salt mine, Hallstatt Museum, houses cramped one upon another in the tightest of space, churches, the cemetery and charnel house, and the “world’s oldest pipeline” – transporting salt-water 40 km to Ebensee.



The high country “am Stein” – from the Krippenstein towards the Dachstein

The incredibly long galleries of Mammut Cave are part of an extended cave network extending a total of 58 km.

In the Heart of the Massif - Caves inside the Dachstein



The solitary landscapes of "am Stein" conceal many a secret, including deep sinkholes. Over the course of millions of years, carbonic acid contained in rainwater slowly and steadily etched its own drainage system into the limestone, which explains why much of the Dachstein is like an enormous stone sponge. Only an impermeable layer of rock at around 1,600 m above sea level causes the water, in the form of powerful springs, to rise again to the surface. Some of the most extensive cave systems in the Eastern Alps have managed to develop in the Dachstein limestone. The shimmering ice palace of the Dachstein giant ice caves was discovered and explored in 1919. Earlier, the Koppenbrüllerhöhle, a cave with a still-active water course, had also delivered up its secrets. The incredibly long galleries of the Mammut Cave are part of an extended cave network reaching out a total of 58 km – all 3 caves are open to the public, and easy to reach from Obertraun.

3 Nights from Gosau to Obertraun for Avid Hikers

Package: 3 nights incl. alpine breakfast (1 x inn/hotel, 2 x mountain huts – dorms either with beds or mattresses, sleeping bag required for the huts!)

- 1 x cable car ride up to the Zwieselalm
- 1 x ride on the Dachstein Glacier Lift; 1 x hiking map
- 1 x Dachstein Hiking Guide; 1 x passenger transfer Obertraun – Gosau
- 2 x luggage transfers

8 nights

Standard tour for mountain fans

Package:

- 8 x nights incl. alpine breakfast
- (4 x ***inns/hotels, 4 x mountain huts -dorms either with beds or mattresses, sleeping bag required for the huts!)
- 1 x cable car ride up to the Zwieselalm
- 1 x ride on the Dachstein Glacier Lift
- 1 x Schladming-Dachstein Sommercard
- 1 x ferry ride Obertraun – Hallstatt
- 1 x ride on the Salzberg train
- 5 x luggage transfer
- 1 x hiking map
- 1 x Dachstein Hiking Guide

11 nights – Long Variant for Mountain Fans

Package:

- 11 x nights incl. alpine breakfast (7 x ***inns/hotels, 4 x mountain huts - dorms either with beds or mattresses, sleeping bag required for the huts!)
- 1 x cable car ride up to the Zwieselalm
- 1 x ride on the Dachstein Glacier Lift
- 1 x ride on the ferry from Obertraun to Hallstatt
- 1 x ride on the Salzberg train
- 1 x All-Inclusive Card for Dachstein Worlds of Adventure
- 9 x luggage transfer
- 1 x hiking map
- 1 x Dachstein Hiking Guide
- 1 x Schladming-Dachstein Sommercard



View from the Predigtstuhl of Goiserertal Valley incl. Hallstättersee at the foot of the Krippenstein.





View from the Stoderzinken.

Of Loden Coats, Lederhosen, Gamsbart Hats & Goiserer Shoes...

Originally, the region's woven loden products were made from the "wild sheep am Stein", though this wool no longer suffices to meet demand. As typical as the "Schladminger", an overcoat manufactured from pearl loden and worn on the southern side of the Dachstein, so, too, those lederhosen, also regularly sported in the Salzkammergut, and often handed down through the family. The precise length of these "shorts" and their decorative stitching tell us precisely which community the wearer hails from. In fact, the Ausseerland is still home to 13 manufacturers dedicated exclusively to creating folkwear: silk printing, hat makers, folk jewelry, lederhosen makers... and the famous double-stitched Goiserer (handmade shoes) from Bad Goisern, just as an example.

And for those wishing to see a collection of the most beautifully adorned men's hats imaginable - Bad Goisern hosts its "Gamsjagatage" (every 4 years) - yet another reason, don't you think, to tackle the Dachstein Hiking Tour?



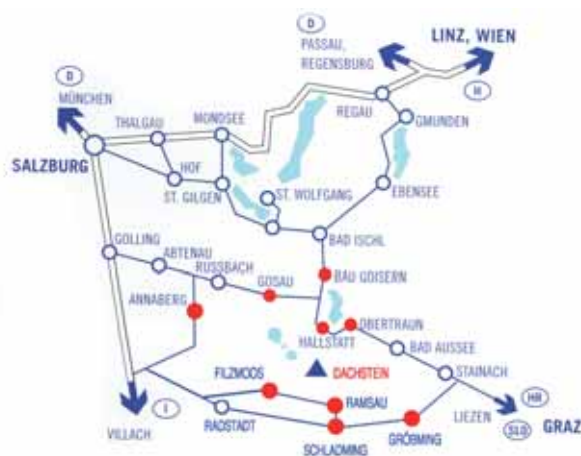
Encounter at the foot of the Donnerkogel, on the shore of the Gosausee



Dachstein Hiking Tour – Extra Pointers:

- Easy to navigate via natural paths and trails in a natural setting on and around the Dachstein – no asphalt or concrete necessary!
- A wide range of elevations between 780 m and 2,700 m
- In diverse landscapes – from the valley floor to glacial regions
- 8 readily manageable daily stages – “no ropes or hooks required”
- Each day of hiking with a different theme; history, tales and windows to the past add to the excitement of this hiking tour
- Spans 3 different provinces: Upper Austria – Styria - SalzburgLand
- Nights spent at scenic huts and alpine inns
- Nature experiences: flanking one of the most beautiful mountains in Austria – the Dachstein, part of UNESCO’s “World Heritage Region: Hallstatt, Dachstein, Salzkammergut”
- Barely any technical difficulties along the tours; however, hiking experience, physical fitness and a modicum of stamina are prerequisites for those wanting to circumnavigate this *King of the Austrian Alps*.

How to
get here



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Information

The 96-page “DACHSTEIN HIKING TOUR” guide contains full route descriptions, many pictures, facts, sketch maps, and background information about the theme of each stage, along with the most important phone Nos. for hut lodgings and transportation (cable cars, ferries, also cave tours). Price: EUR 7.50 + postage & handling.

Contact Addresses

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Different variants of the Dachstein Hiking Tour are bookable

- Hiking without Luggage: luggage transportation from hotel to hotel, and
- from hut to hut, depending on your booking category
- Standard tours and multi-day variants
- Specific dates with hiking guide, or
- without guide, also bookable on a daily basis

Central Information Source

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