

A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a rocky shoreline leads to a calm lake that perfectly reflects the surrounding landscape. The middle ground shows a dense forest of evergreen trees, with one tree showing autumnal yellow leaves. In the background, majestic, rugged mountains rise, their peaks and ridges covered in snow and partially shrouded in soft, white clouds. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Dachstein Hiking Tour

**Guidepost to 8 excitingly
beautiful trekking stages**



In its 8 daily stages, the Dachstein Hiking Tour provides a gateway to the glorious landscapes and immense diversity of the second highest mountain in the Northern Limestone Alps.

The starting point is Gosau, directly on the shores of the Gosausee and one of the most spectacular sights on the entire trail. And the end of the first daily stage, the Hofpürglhütte, perched up above Filzmoos, is a magnificent box seat at the foot of the Bischofsmütze.

The scenery accompanying the trail changes each and every day: our first companions are the jagged limestone towers of the Gosaukamm, along with beautiful alpine meadows and lush high pastures. But by the third day of our trek, the landscape changes dramatically. The ride up on the Dachstein Glacier Lift is quite an experience in itself – and to enhance the overall impact even more, we suggest planning your

trekking tour so that the glacier ascent comes on a Thursday: this is the day when you can hop aboard the “Sunrise Gondola”, giving you an irresistible opportunity to enjoy a magical sunrise at the lofty elevation of 2,700 metres above sea level. Yet another plus: breakfast at the Glacier Restaurant is included, meaning you can also get an early start to the next stage of your adventure. This begins on the Hunerkogel, takes us across the glacier and through the landscapes which flank the Dachstein, serving up an array of fascinating lookout points along the way, until reaching the Guttenberg House high above the Ramsau. Dark forests teeming with game and high mountain pastures accompany us as we first hike to the Stoderzinken (overnight stop and a great vantage point from which to enjoy the scenery) and then over the Viehbergalm to Bad Mitterndorf. Here it is the mysterious karst springs and pathways next to wild,

crystal-clear streams and hidden forest lakes, which make the hike through the Ausseerland so charming and rich in variety. The last two trekking days then lead us through the Inner Salzkammergut. This trail passes through the wilderness along the Koppentraun to Obertraun and to Hallstatt. This is an absolute highlight, listed as a gem of world natural and cultural heritage, featuring the world’s oldest salt mine, the Hallstättersee, Celtic archaeological finds and more. The tour along the “Brine Trail” from Hallstatt to Bad Goisern is significantly different from the earlier stages, giving us glimpses into “white gold” – salt – and its significance to the region. The final stage once again demands a not inconsiderable climb up to the Goiserer Hütte. The beautiful views and alpine villages definitely merit the 1,000 vertical meters involved in the ascent and descent, before we finally return to our starting point in Gosau.



The Hallstätter Glacier with Dirndl and Hoher Dachstein (top); The Gosausee with the sharp limestone towers of the Gosaukamm – an “alpine lagoon”. (b l); Sunrise on the Hunerkogel – summit station of the Dachstein Glacier Lift (b r)





The Neustattalm at the foot of the Dachstein's south face

At the center of it all, the Dachstein

A giant limestone reef with mighty south-facing walls, towering up into the skies from the green alpine pastures below; this is how the Dachstein manifests itself to the hiker approaching from the south. White glaciers provide the imposing backdrop to a gigantic expanse of high country, whose bright rocky knolls, with ancient stone pine and lush flower-speckled meadows, never fail to surprise. Glistening lakes bejewel themselves with mirror-like reflections of the Dachstein. Mysterious karst springs and dark forest lakes are connected to the glaciers through subterranean channels and are our companions on the trail through the Salzkammergut. Under the spell of the Dachstein: Gosau, Annaberg, Filzmoos and Ramsau - alpine villages to the west and south of the Dachstein. With their countless adventures and histories, pilgrims, bible smugglers, mineral hunters and mountain climbers have

all left their marks on these villages and their traditions. The inhabitants of the Styrian and Inner Salzkammergut are renowned for having preserved their folk costume, folk music and traditional craftsmanship. Bad Mitterndorf, Bad Aussee, Obertraun, Hallstatt and Bad Goisern await us at the end of our daily stages, but they also serve as fascinating locales for those who are embarked on their own personal treasure hunt. Geologists, men of letters and artists have always been enthralled by the landscapes surrounding the Dachstein. Adalbert Stifter, Friedrich von Simony, Friedrich Thorberg, Peter Rosegger, Archduke John... to name but a few, have depicted the Dachstein in their works with wonder and excitement. The Dachstein, Hallstatt and the Salzkammergut count themselves amongst the illustrious circle of World Natural and Cultural Heritage regions – recognition that makes the Dachstein

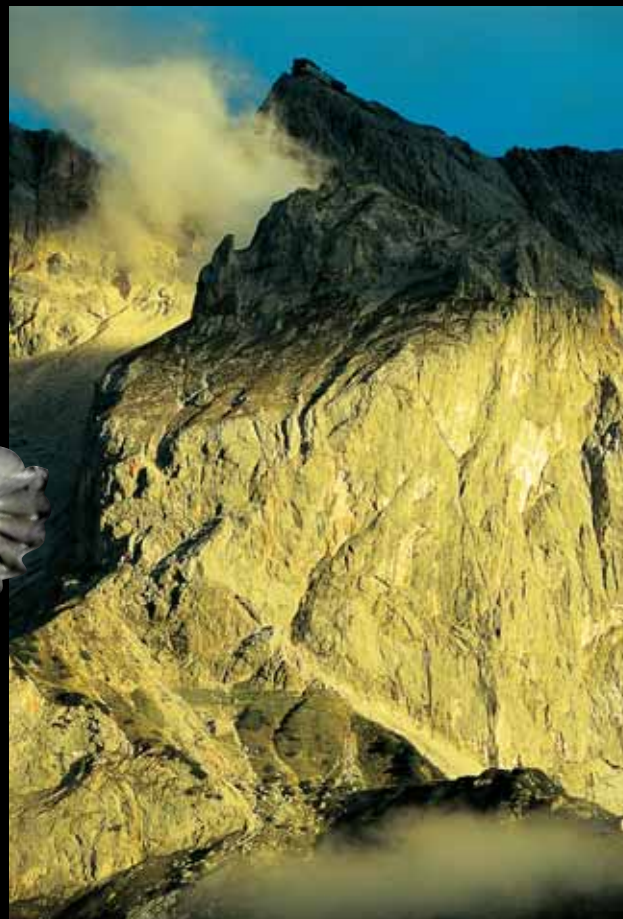
Dachstein and Gosaukamm, Coral Reefs, as high as 3,000 m above sea level

The Dachstein and the Gosaukamm truly are one giant, petrified coral reef, that now rises up to almost 3,000 m above sea level. Hikers who are out on this tour, will be constantly moving over the cleft bed of a primeval ocean (the Tethys Ocean, dating back to the Triassic period)

where, assuming they keep their eyes peeled, they might well be able to discover a multitude of fossilized marine creatures, such as coral, snails, mussels and ammonites. If this topic holds special interest for you, you will be able to

feed your curiosity even more at the Gapp rock-cutters in the Gosau and at Plut Minerals in the Ramsau.

The so-called "cow hoof-print mussel" (scientific name: megalodontus) is perhaps the most famous of all, getting its nickname from its heart-shaped outline. The typical banked Dachstein limestone of the south wall is around 200 million years old and was formed in the tranquil waters of a tropical lagoon, still containing the remains of millions upon millions of dead aquatic inhabitants.



Follow the trails of the bible-smuggler

The first two daily stages, along the Austria, Linzer and Perner trails, are identical with the Ramsau Bible Trail, a smugglers' path along which, in the Counter Reformation and under extreme danger, bibles were brought from the southern German region into the protestant Ramsau. The populace of Bad Goisern, Gosau and Ramsau had to endure a range of fates, if they were unwilling to renounce their protestant beliefs...

The Austriaweg in the area of the Stuhlmalm (left); Ancient weathered stone pine on the Rinderfeld - Linzerweg (r); Evening at the Dachstein South Face Lodge – view of the Dachstein summit station

stand out from the "crowd" of 3,000-meter peaks. Actually, we should point out that the Dachstein is only 2,996 m high – but even the stories which are intertwined with the differing elevation readings, merely add

to the celebrity of this imposing mountain. In climbing circles, those who were first to climb the Dachstein and Bischofsmütze are not forgotten, while the new and challenging fixed-cable trails and their countless

fans clearly demonstrate, that the Dachstein has lost none of its fascination to this very day. Quite to the contrary!

An Overview of the 8 Stages

1) Gosausee – Hofpürgl Lodge:

via the Austriaweg at the foot of the Gosaukamm, to the Hofpürgl Lodge below the Bischofsmütze

2) Hofpürgl Lodge – Dachstein South Face Lodge:

along the Linzerweg and Pernerweg – always under the spell, as it were, of the Dachstein's south face

3) Dachstein South Face Lodge - Hunerkogel – Guttenberg House:

“up, up and away” for a glacier hike across the landscapes flanking the Dachstein

4) Guttenberg House – Stoderzinken:

across the high pastures alongside the Dachstein, to the Stoderzinken lookout mountain

5) Stoderzinken – Bad Mitterndorf:

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

6) Salzkammergut – Hallstatt:

flat trails next to the stream: moors, karst springs, quiet forest lakes, then via the Salzkammerweg to Hallstatt

7) Hallstatt – Bad Goisern:

on the “Brine Trail” high above the waters of the Hallstättersee to Bad Goisern, alpine variant always in view of the glacier

8) Bad Goisern – Gosau:

on steep pathways up via the Goisererhütte to Gosau.

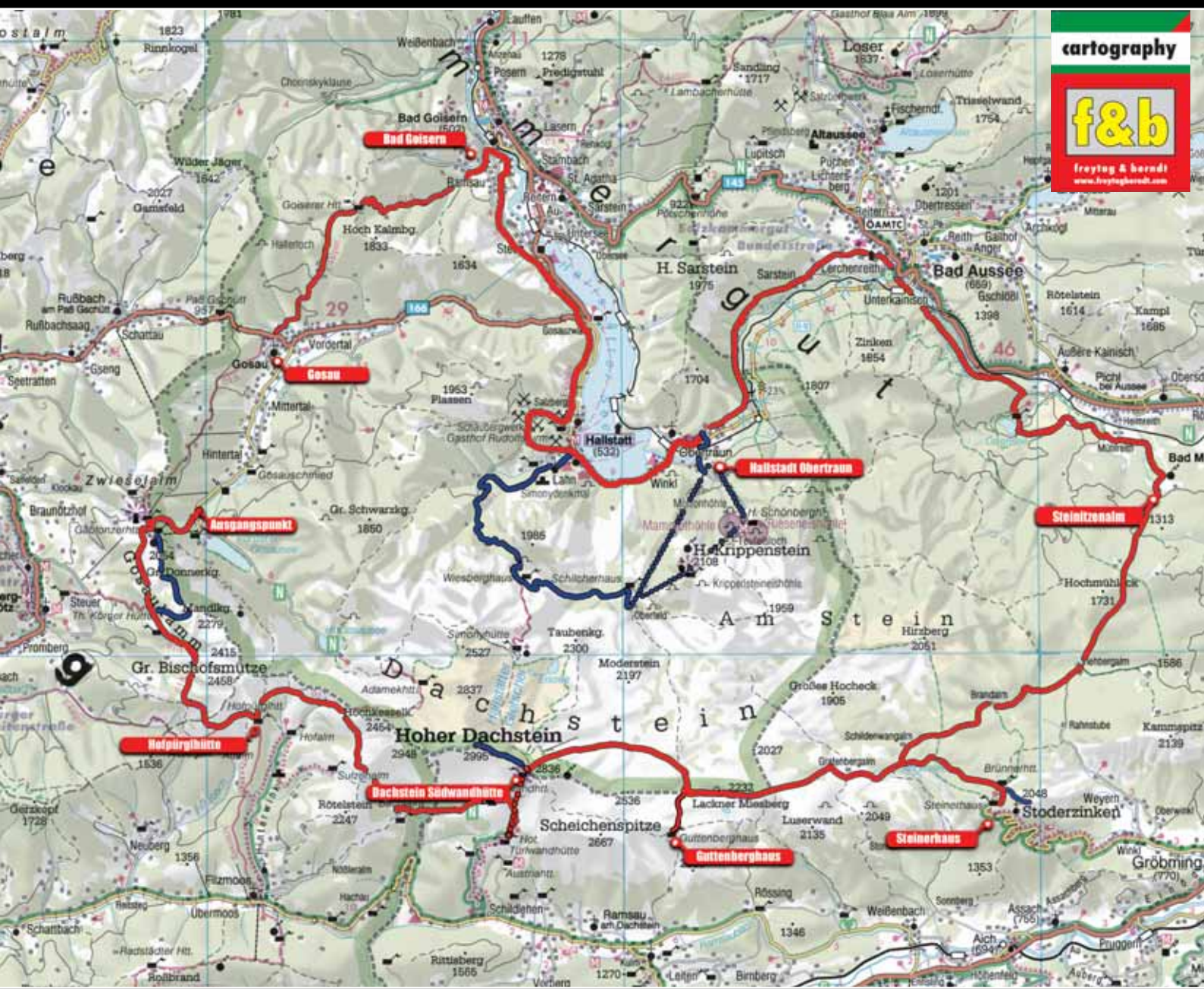


The Dachstein Hiking Tour follows already existing paths, but is sign-posted separately at important trail intersections. The daily stages equate to around 4 – 6 hours of normal-paced walking. The hiking guide lists important variants, opportunities for hiking down to villages in the valley, as well as available transportation (trains or ships) in the event you wish to plan a slightly more leisurely tour. There should be plenty of time left over to acquaint yourself with some of the countless stories that swirl around

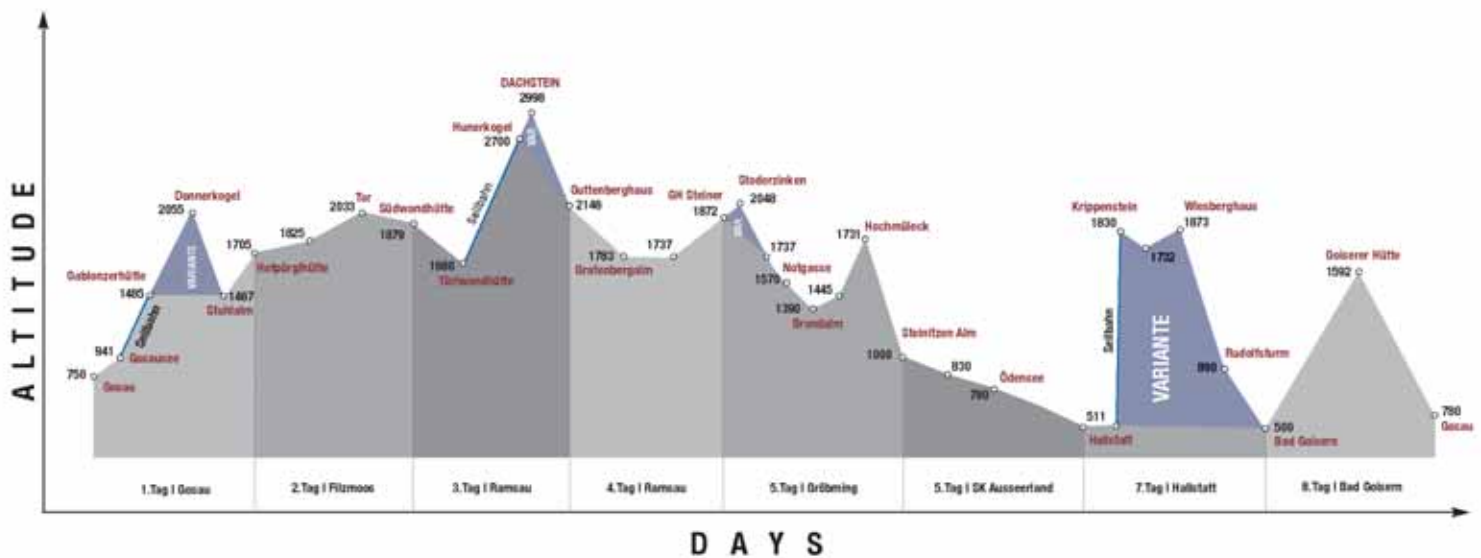
this mountain. After all, without these tales any circumnavigation of the Dachstein would only be half as exciting! Be that as it may, the magnificent scenery alone ranks this trekking tour amongst the world's most beautiful alpine hikes. Which is where the new Dachstein Hiking Tour guidebook comes in so useful: in a practical paperback format, it not only provides trail descriptions, it also contains attractive pictures which keep us always aware of the nature and countryside we encounter.



It interweaves a wealth of remarkable tales, legends and stories of people who have left their traces here on the Dachstein.



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Hallstatt at the Hallstättersee. Ancient salt mines and famous celtic graves make this romantic place in the north of the Dachstein a must-see

View from Krippenstein over the Hallstättersee

Hallstatt, “white gold” and the world’s oldest pipeline

In contrast, the Hasel-Gebirge mountains to the north of the Dachstein Massif await hikers with their own very unique geological feature: vast deposits of salt were discovered there more than 4,000 years ago. To this day, here in “the world’s oldest salt mine” above Hallstatt, “white gold” continues to be extracted. If you are looking for evidence of the past, you will definitely be kept busy in Hallstatt, a place with a history extending back almost 4,000 years: Celtic grave finds, the salt mine, the Museum of Prehistory, houses packed tightly together one atop another, the churches, the cemetery with its charnel house and “the world’s oldest pipeline” – the 40 km-long brine pipeline to Ebensee.



High country flanking the Dachstein – from the Krippenstein towards the Dachstein



Some of the most extensive cave systems of the Eastern Alps have evolved in the limestone of the Dachstein

Deep in the Depths - Caves in the Dachstein

The secluded landscapes alongside the Dachstein hide many more secrets, including deep sinkholes.

In the course of millions of years, the carbonic acid contained in the rainwater etched away, slowly but steadily, at the limestone, creating

its own system of drainage channels, so that a large portion of the Dachstein now resembles a rocky sponge.

Only an impermeable layer of rock at an elevation of about 1,600 m above sea level, allows the water to

once again resurface, now in the form of powerful springs. Some of the most extensive cave systems of the Eastern Alps have evolved

in the limestone of the Dachstein. The shimmering ice palace of the Dachstein's giant ice cave was discovered and explored in 1919, while the Koppenbrüller cave,

a water cave still active today, had already given up its secrets some time before. The unbelievably long passages of Mammoth Cave

create an entire network of caves extending out for the better part of 58 km – all 3 of these caves are open to the public and within easy reach of Obertraun.





The Hallstättersee at the foot of the Krippenstein and Dachstein – backdrop for the “Brine Trail” shortly before Bad Goisern (big picture above)
Photo impressions from out on the trail: typical folk costume in the Salzkammergut, encounters on the high pastures (b I)





The "wild sheep" of the Dachstein – in front of the rocky citadel of the Dachstein itself. From the summit of the Stoderzinken.

Loden Skirts and Leather Pants, Alpine Hats and Goiserer Boots...

Fulled loden products originally came from the "wild sheep of the Dachstein", though this wool is, of course, no longer sufficient to meet demand. But the "Schladminger", a greatcoat manufactured from pearl loden, is as typical to the southern reaches of the Dachstein, as are leather pants to the Salzkammergut, with the best ones passed on from one generation to the next.

The length of those "short" pants and the decorative stitching on the "deer leather", tell precisely which village the wearer hails from. Which explains why, in the Ausseerland, there are still 13 manufacturers devoted exclusively to traditional costume: silk printing, hat-making, folk jewelry, leather pants .. and the famous handmade Goiserer boots from Bad Goisern, just as an example. And if you would like to see the most handsome beards and most impressive alpine hats (featuring the typical chamois brushes) – every 2 years, Bad Goisern hosts its "Gamsjagatage" (incl. the "Chamois Brush Olympics") – yet another reason to tackle the Dachstein Hiking Tour!

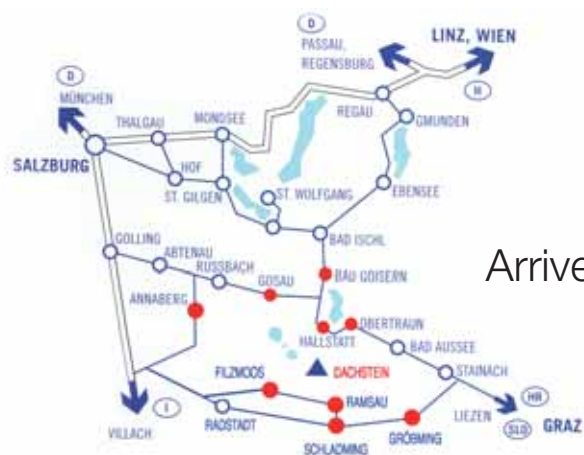


Encounter at the foot of the Donnerkogel, on the shores of the Gosausee



Some Pointers for the Dachstein Hiking Tour:

- Always easy to get your bearings, as you make your way along natural (no asphalt or concrete), close-to-nature trails and paths around the Dachstein!
- A variety of elevations ranging from 780 m to 2,700 m above sea level
- Landscapes as diverse as they come – from valley bottoms to glacial expanses
- 8 stages with very predictable daily walk times – no need for ropes
- Each day of hiking with its own special theme; history, tales and fascinating windows to the past, make this tour more compelling than you could ever imagine
- Spans 3 Austrian provinces: Upper Austria, Styria and the SalzburgerLand
- Nights spent in mountain inns and lodges with panoramic views
- Experience nature: in the area around one of the most beautiful mountains in all of Austria – the Dachstein, recognized by UNESCO as a “World, Nature and Cultural Heritage Region”
- Tours that present no unusual technical challenges; hiking experience, physical fitness and a certain degree of stamina are required, however, in order to be able to circumnavigate this “King of the Eastern Alps”



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Informations

“Hiking Guide to the Dachstein Hiking Tour”, a 96-page trail guide, featuring precise trail descriptions with lots of photos, facts, sketch maps and background information on the daily stages/themes, plus the most important telephone numbers for arranging overnight lodging and transportation (cable lifts, admission to caves, ferry rides...), price € 7.50 + shipping and handling

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The Dachstein Hiking Tour is bookable in a number of variants

- “Hiking without Luggage”: luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- or lodge to lodge provided, depending on your chosen category
- 9- and 4-day variants
- Hiking guides available on set dates
- Dachstein Hiking Tour bookable without guide or on a day-by-day basis

Should you wish to enjoy a more leisurely day, you can always complete a portion of the stage using public transportation (bus, train, ferry).

Central information point

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Credits: Publisher: Dachstein Hiking Tour Collaborative;
Text: Reinhard Lamm; Images: Reinhard Lamm,
TV Inneres Salzkammergut, Maxum; Cartography: Freytag + Berndt;
Design: Tom Lamm | ikarus.cc; Print: Wallig

Our team is ready and willing to assist you with information about the trail, guidebooks, maps etc. We can also help you reserve ready-made hiking packages