



The Leutasch Valley


Single center  or  independent walking

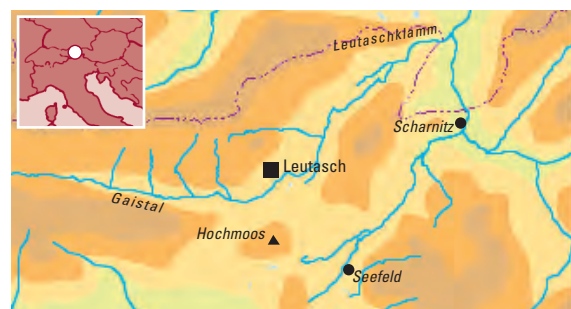
- ★★★★★ hotel with heated indoor pool, saunas, steam bath, excellent food; superb value
- A glorious mix: snow-capped peaks, dramatic valleys, picturesque forests
- Independent  and  choices every day
- Perfect signposting, mountain lifts and cable cars, 450km/280mi of walking trails
- Traditional Tyrolean villages, pretty frescoed houses, onion-domed churches, panoramic trailside restaurants for lunch



This independent walking week is based in the tiny hamlet of Kirchplatzl, in the heart of the Leutasch Valley. Tucked away next to the onion-domed village church is the family-run Hotel Xander. The oldest inn in the valley, it has been sensitively modernized to incorporate all the luxuries you would expect of a ★★★★★ establishment. The huge bedrooms are more like apartments, with your own lounge area and tea/coffee-making facilities, and the bathrooms have both a bath and a shower. There is a heated indoor swimming pool, two saunas, steam bath, whirlpool bath and solarium (pay locally), fitness studio, boot room, and if you want to spoil yourself, beauty treatments and massages at extra cost. For children, there's an indoor play area and games room, with table tennis, pool, table football, darts and pinball.

Breakfast is an enormous hot and cold buffet and picnic lunches are provided for all walking days. Evening meals are served in the hotel's elegant dining room - gorgeous mountain views. Hubert Kobinger has been the hotel's chef for more than 30 years and his menu is an interesting blend of Tyrolean specialities and international dishes.

Opposite is a suggested week of  walks. There is also a full program of  walks along flat valley trails and using mountain lifts to gain altitude. Leutasch tourist office offers free guided walks on most days.



THE LEUTASCH VALLEY | DAY BY DAY

Day 1 Arrive at Innsbruck

We pick you up at Innsbruck station for the 40-minute drive to the hotel in time for dinner.

Day 2 Hochmoos and the Wildmoos 14km/9mi/5hr

This circular route from the hotel starts gently alongside the river, the Leutascher Ache, to the Kreith chairlift, which whisks you up to the sunny terrace at the Katzenkopf restaurant (1363m). A shady forest path winds up to 1540m and a succession of dramatic viewpoints in a wonderful geography lesson: the bare-topped Zugspitze, sweeping Leutasch valley and neighbouring Seefeld, backed by the jagged Karwendel mountains.

Day 3 Frenchman's Climb and the Leutaschkamm Gorge 15km/9mi/6hr

A taxi (included) takes you along the valley to where you begin the steep Frenchman's Climb. This is the route Napoleon took to invade Tyrol in 1805 - although in the opposite direction! You walk through cool forest along a broad ridge with wonderful views. After perhaps a leisurely lunch at a mountain restaurant you head into the spectacular Leutaschkamm Gorge on a series of amazing boardwalks high above the ice-blue waters to a thundering 23m waterfall. After wandering into Bavaria, you explore the delightful village of Mittenwald and then catch the train home. Back at the hotel enjoy a swim in the pool and the late afternoon sun on the terrace.

Day 4 Gaistal Balcony Walk 17km/11mi/5.5hr

This dead-end valley, closed to vehicles, is a Tyrolean idyll of lush Alpine meadows, pretty wooden chalets and burbling brooks, topped by jagged grey mountain peaks. Starting from the hotel, there's a steep climb then a marvellous treat of constant views along an easy balcony walk: not only the Leutasch valley and familiar mountains, but over to the spiky line of the Stubai Alps beyond Innsbruck.

Day 5 Free Day

Why not spend the day in Innsbruck, just 40 minutes away? The romantic medieval Altstadt is the best starting point, but the whole city center, small enough to explore on foot, is a jumble of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings. There's excellent shopping too. Alternatively you could book a day trip to the top of the Zugspitze (2962m) by cable car.

Day 6 Walk on the Wild Side 11km/7mi/3hr or 13km/8mi/4hr

You take the bus and train to Scharnitz to begin today's walk which follows part of the E4 Gibraltar-Crete long distance footpath. It feels like a really wild walk although you are still close to civilisation. The climb through the mixed woodland - we saw roe deer and a lone chamois grazing in the lunar landscape of the Kastental cliffs - takes you to the grassy High Saddle (1495m). From this wonderful picnic spot you descend directly back to the hotel for a relaxing sauna and swim.

Day 7 Seefeld High Mountain Walk 12km/8mi/3.5hr

Today you get a taste of 'high mountain' walking, along straightforward paths and using mountain lifts to cut out the hard work. From the top of the Seefeld Spitze (2221m) you have a magnificent 360° panorama, and you can see the routes of all your walks. The Gaistal, dominated by the Zugspitze, looks magnificent! After dinner at the hotel, perhaps celebrate your last night with a fun Tyrolean music evening in a local bar.

Day 8 Return home



Dates and Prices

Departs Saturdays Tour Only

2012 departures

May 26	\$2,184
Jun 2, 9, Sep 1, 8, 15	\$2,327
Jun 16, 23, 30, Jul 7	\$2,359
Aug 25	\$2,398
Jul 14, 21, 28, Aug 4, 11, 18	\$2,398
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,469

Singles: Add \$23 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

Sep 15 departure no supplement.

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: West wing (balcony, panoramic mountain view) add \$19 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing. Junior suite, \$28 per person, per night. Suite, \$60 per person, per night.

Holiday type: Independent walking, single center, no minimum group size, however transfers are subject to at least 2 people (in total) booked on each departure.

Departs: Saturdays from May 26 to Sep 15.

Duration: 8 days (7 nights).

Meals: Buffet breakfast, 5 picnic lunches and all evening meals.

Other details: You should allow approx \$100 per person for the use of local trains/buses and ski lifts for the walks and activities (not including entrance fees in Innsbruck or day trip to the Zugspitze). Before June, the Kreithlift (Day 2) and some mountain restaurants are open at weekends only. For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Zurich Airport. Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Innsbruck train station at 18:06 (transfer to hotel, 40 mins, provided). **Return:** Innsbruck train station by 09:34.

Rail Options: Zurich Airport to Innsbruck via Zurich HB 14:20/18:06. **Return:** Rail Innsbruck to Zurich Airport via Bregenz, St. Margrethen and St. Gallen 09:34/13:38.

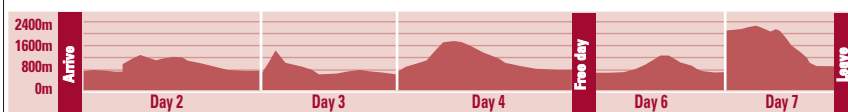
Second Class Swiss Rail: Add \$514 per person, round trip.

First Class Swiss Rail: Add \$802 per person, round trip.

Tour only: Transfers included from Innsbruck train station at 18:06, and back to Innsbruck train station departing hotel at 08:45.

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THE LEUTASCH VALLEY | WALKING DETAILS



The option includes steep climbs on days 3 & 4 and a long descent with 1100m altitude change, but all trails are easy to follow. The walking follows flat valley trails or uses mountain lifts to cut out climbing. Walking boots are essential.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

14 17 19 18 16
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

54 68 60 50 36
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP