

# Self-Guided Walking In Austria

Trip Code: SGSL

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Imperial Villa and Hotel Austria where Emperor Franz Joseph proposed to Elizabeth of Bavaria
- Swim in the crystal clear waters of Wolfgangsee
- Stay in colourful alpine villages and enjoy the warm Austrian hospitality
- Discover the World Heritage town of Hallstatt and panoramic views from the Skywalk

## AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days walking and sightseeing
- Luggage transfer
- Daily departures available
- Join at Abersee or St. Wolfgang

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

# Introduction

As the summer residence for Emperor Franz Joseph and Elizabeth of Bavaria for over 60 years and with salt mining in the area dating back to the Celtic period, the Salzkammergut not only offers beautiful scenery but a deep and rich culture just waiting for you to explore on this one week self-guided walking holiday.

Located less than an hour from Salzburg, the Salzkammergut is the playground for Salzburg's residents including the famous musician Mozart. Known as Austria's Lake District, the region offers wonderful easy walking surrounded by high peaks and beautiful crystal clear lakes. Walk through scenes from the Sound of Music with beautiful green pastures scattered with fragrant wild flowers in the spring and stay in quaint alpine towns ready to provide you a warm alpine welcome. On this holiday you will explore Lake Wolfgangsee and Lake Hallstattersee, stay in the Imperial summer residence of Bad Ischl and discover the fascinating salt mining heritage of the UNESCO town, Hallstatt. We have hand selected fantastic family run alpine 3\* hotels for your holiday all known for their warm hospitality and superb locations. And with two nights in each hotel you will have plenty of time to enjoy the pretty towns of Abersee, Bad Ischl and Bad Goisern, plus the flexibility of being on a self-guided walking holiday means you have plenty of opportunity to sample local delicacies such as Goulash in one of the fantastic restaurants.

## Is this holiday for you?

This holiday has been specially designed for a relaxed pace around the spectacular Salzkammergut mountains and lakes. This trip is ideal if you love being in the mountains but don't feel the need to hike the highest peak in sight. This self-guided walking holiday is all about gentle low level walks interspersed with visits to cultural sites, sampling fantastic food and enjoying the beautiful clear blue lakes, whether it is on the cruise ferry, hiring a boat or swimming after a day of walking. You will stay in highly rated 3\* hotels all chosen especially for their fantastic location and warm alpine welcome. Routes are well marked for easy navigation and on well-established paths covering average distances of 13km with some ascents but no more than 450m.

# Itinerary

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Version:

## Holiday Information

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### What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Luggage transfer
- Welcome meeting
- Cruise on Wolfgangsee
- Ferry on Hallstättersee
- Valley cable car Salzbergbahn Hallstatt
- Train from Hallstatt to Bad Goisern and from Bad Goisern to Bad Ischl
- Salzkammergut Erlebnis Card (offering reductions on many local attractions)

### What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to/from Lake Wolfgangsee
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Bus ride Strobl to Bad Ischl (approx. 5 Euros)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

## Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

## Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts and ends at your hotel in Abersee or Wolfgang depending on your accommodation. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a land only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Salzburg Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

Transport connections from Salzburg to Abersee are extremely good. If you are flying into Salzburg Airport you can take the public bus to Salzburg main bus terminus from where you can take the bus directly to Abersee or with one change in Strobl for St Wolfgang. The journey take an hour and half and the buses run hourly so you can sit back and relax as you soak in the colourful alpine scenery.

Another option is to fly into Munich which allows for better regional flight options from the UK. If you are flying into Munich the train journey to Salzburg central station adds approx two and half hours to your journey to Abersee or St Wolfgang. Salzburg bus terminus is located next to the station.

## Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

## Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

Food in Austria is a hearty affair with many stews, schnitzel and delicious desserts on offer to fuel all those walks in the beautiful peaks. When you think of Austrian cuisine it is hard not to think of goulash, strudel and yummy chocolate Sachertorte for which the country is famed but there is a world of history behind these national favourites along with many more.

Austrian cuisine is symbolic of the former crownlands of the monarchy with its multi-cultural history with Hungarians, Bohemians, Slovaks, Poles, Croatians and immigrants from the Dalmatia, Subcarpathia, Bukovina and Carnola all bringing their favourite recipes with them as they came to Vienna. The best of the best have become fully integrated into the Austrian menu. Take the Apfelstrudel for example which originally came from Turkey after being adopted by Hungary. Who would have thought this national dish was actually Turkish?

The best bit of this self-guided holiday is that we have created it on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the opportunity to discover the many delicious dishes Austrian's have adopted and created. We are sure you won't be disappointed.

## Accommodation

Alpine hospitality is second to none and you are sure for a warm welcome in our carefully selected family run 3\* alpine hotels on this trip. All of the hotels on this trip have been chosen for their fantastic locations and character. Some also have spa and pool facilities, making them perfect for unwinding after a day of exploring. The hotels all offer a great breakfast buffet to fuel you for the day ahead and rooms are on a double or twin basis, some with Austrian style twin beds as is traditional in this area (two beds within one bed frame and separate bedding).

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to enjoy this magnificent region a little longer. Please speak to one of our sales team for further details.

During high season you may be booked into an alternative accommodation of a similar standard in the area.

## Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your trek. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

### Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Health & Vaccinations

### Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

### GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

### Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

## Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 3 to 4 hours for consecutive days. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of daily walks in hilly countryside before your trip and it's always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear you are going to use on this holiday.

## Climate

The Salzkammergut area is in the wet-warm-moderate climate zone making for warm summers ideal for exploring the mountains and lakes. The ideal time for a hiking tour is spring, summer and autumn. Although spring and autumn can be a bit more rainy, the spring brings fantastic alpine flowers and the autumn brings beautiful autumnal colours and warm lakes after a summer of warming sun. The summer is the most popular time to visit this area when there is the least rain and the lakes are abundant with people enjoying watersports and cooling off after a day of exploring.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

- The Radetzky March by Joseph Roth
- The Sound of Music by Maria Augusta Trapp

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

# Equipment Information

## Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good grip soles
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack



- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles
- Headtorch & spare batteries
- Your self-guided route notes

## Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

## Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE

We have designed this self-guided holiday with a relaxed pace in mind so you can absorb the alpine way of life, enjoy the Austrian coffee and cake culture and swim in the crystal clear lakes. The perfect introduction to alpine walking!

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 24/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change