

## Alpine Walks in Europe

Monday 12 — Friday 30 August 2024  
18 nights

### TOUR OVERVIEW

Majestic alpine scenery, quaint villages, mountain forests and idyllic pastoral scenes. This walking tour in the European Alps takes in three countries and their different cultures, and transports you into spectacular alpine landscapes with minimum effort thanks to gondolas, funiculars and cog railways. By staying in small mountain towns for three or four nights each, unpacking and travel time are kept to a minimum and you will return each day to a picturesque setting.

Start in the Swiss alpine village of Wengen in the Bernese Oberland region, known for its timber chalets and belle époque hotels. From here explore the famous Jungfrau with its spectacular views of the Bernese Alps, take panoramic walks, enjoy picnic lunches and visit an underground waterfall. Engelberg in central Switzerland is your next base; a chance to ascend Mount Titlis, explore alpine meadows, and also take an easy journey to the beautiful town of Lucerne on market day. Your third stop in Switzerland is the village of Appenzell, set in a remarkable landscape of rolling hills at the foot of the Alpstein mountains and a stepping-off point for walks in the mountains. From here you will visit nearby St Gallen, whose old town hosts one of the most spectacular ancient libraries in Europe.

Then to Austria and the alpine town of Seefeld in Tyrol, gateway to spectacular mountain walks as well as a day trip to Innsbruck's medieval old town. Next over the Brenner Pass to Castelrotto in Italy, base for exploring the Dolomite mountains and the largest alpine plateau in Europe.

On this tour the walking is easy, and there is a good balance between walking and visits to fascinating towns and villages. Throughout the trip are chances to experience local customs, such as watching very traditional farming or seeing a cheesemaker at work, and delving into some of the rich history of this part of Europe.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy easy alpine walking with spectacular scenery in Switzerland, Austria and Italy
- Reach the heights the easy way, in gondolas, cog railways and funiculars
- Explore an underground waterfall and glacier grotto
- Stay in charming mountain villages
- Free time to explore towns and villages of real character
- See local artisans make cheese, flour and gingerbread
- Experience the historic cities of Lucerne, St Gallen and Innsbruck
- Sample local foods ranging from wild boar and apple strudel to decadent chocolate creations, and local wines



## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson Tours tour manager
- 18 nights accommodation in Europe
- Breakfast daily and meals as specified in the itinerary
- All group transfers as specified in the itinerary
- Luggage transfer between accommodation on the walks
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides and other service providers
- Pre-tour material

## TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares and airline taxes to Europe
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel portorage

## IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This is a walking tour, and there are walks on most days. The longest is about 4.5 hours and the shortest less than one hour, with an average of about 3 hours on each day that includes a walk. You should have recent experience of walking for that long on consecutive days. Most of the climbing is avoided by taking transport up to altitude, but there will be some climbing and more descending. The paths are generally of a good standard and an easy grade. The effort will be rewarded by spectacular views.



## TOUR PRICE

Share twin per person	NZD \$12,590
Single supplement	NZD \$1,750

Please contact Calder & Lawson Tours if you are interested in a single occupancy place.

**GROUP SIZE** Minimum 10, maximum 18

**VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL** We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

## FLIGHTS

The price of this tour does not include international flights from Auckland to Europe.

We expect that the best options will be either on Emirates via Dubai or Singapore Airlines via Singapore.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

## TOUR MANAGER: Peter Carter

Peter grew up in the UK and spent many summers on walking holidays in the UK and Europe. In 1988 whilst on a round-the-world trip Peter arrived in New Zealand with a bicycle and cycled from Cape Reinga to the Bluff - and managed to find a wife along the way. Most of his working life has been spent starting businesses in the UK and New Zealand. Latterly he has taken to writing and has now written six books. He is an experienced tour leader and has a genuine love of the outdoors and enjoys sharing this love with enthusiasm.





# DAILY ITINERARY

## Monday 12 August 2024

### Auckland to Zurich

Meals: None

Overnight: Zurich

Depart NZ for Europe on Sunday 11 August. Please note that your flight is not included in the tour price. We will offer flight suggestions for a group departure for tour participants to travel with the tour manager to Europe from Auckland.

Meet up with your tour manager and the rest of the group in Zurich on Monday 12 August where you will overnight in a local hotel.

## Tuesday 13 August

### Zurich - Wengen

Meals: in flight/D

Coach: 3 hours

Train: 20 minutes

Overnight: Wengen

In the morning transfer by private coach to Lauterbrunnen, which nestles in one of Switzerland's most impressive glacial valleys, and then by a cogwheel train for the short journey up to Wengen, your base for three nights. Afternoon at leisure to relax or explore the picturesque and car-free mountain village at the foot of Mount Jungfrau, before a welcome dinner.

## Wednesday 14 August

### Maennlichen - Kleine

### Scheidegg

Meals: B/D

Walk: 3-4 hours

Overnight: Wengen

Travel by cable car up Maennlichen (3,340 m), then walk along a trail through an alpine moor to the bottom of the Jungfrau mountain at Kleine Scheidegg (2,060 m). Here you are below the north face of the Eiger and have breath-taking views of the Bernese Alps. Enjoy a picnic or have lunch at one of the mountain inns. Either ride the cogwheel train down or walk back to Wengen or Wengenalp. A further option is taking the cog railway from Kleine Scheidegg all the way up to the highest railway station in Europe at Jungfraujoch (3,450 m). The views are spectacular.

## Thursday 15 August

### Muerren and Trummelbach

### Falls

Meals: B

Walking: 3.5 hours with local guide (4.5 hours if taking the extra section)

Overnight Wengen

Take the cogwheel train down to the picturesque town of Lauterbrunnen, and then go by funicular to Gruetschalp (1,490 m) from where you walk to Muerren (1,640 m). This is a perfect spot for a picnic lunch, with an impressive vista of the Bernese Alps. Those wanting more exercise can take the optional Muerren panoramic track from Muerren to Allmendhubel (1,900 m). The 2km trail is easy (with just one steep section) and should take about 1 hour, depending on how many times you stop to enjoy the view of the famous mountains Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. You can return to Muerren from Allmendhubel by cable car.

From Muerren take the cog railway and a cable car down to Lauterbrunnen Valley. Stop on the way back visit the impressive Truemmelbach waterfalls, a series of 10 glacier-fed waterfalls inside a mountain. The evening is free to enjoy Wengen, and sample a local café or restaurant.

# DAILY ITINERARY

## **Friday 16 August** **Wengen - Ballenberg -** **Engelberg**

Meals: B/D  
Coach: 4.5 hours  
Walking: at folk village up to 2 hours  
Overnight: Engelberg

Travel by coach to the alpine town of Engleberg. On the way step back in time at the Ballenberg outdoor museum, which contains about 100 original buildings from all over Switzerland. This is a living folk village, with traditional crafts and agricultural practices demonstrated daily. Continue over the Brünig Pass to Engelberg.

## **Saturday 17 August** **Lucerne**

Meals: B  
Train: 1 hour each way  
Walking: 2 hours on a guided city tour  
Overnight: Engelberg

This morning travel by train to Lucerne, one of Switzerland's most picturesque towns. Your guided tour will take you down historic streets lined with sturdy city walls, watchtowers, fountains and bridges.

Saturday is market day in Lucerne, so explore the stalls and make sure you stop and chat to the local traders. The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore at leisure. You could even have dinner in Lucerne before returning by train to Engelberg.

## **Sunday 18 August** **Fürenalp**

Meals: B/L  
Walking: 3.5 - 4.5 hours with local guide  
Overnight: Engelberg

Take a public bus, to reach the valley station Fürenalp. From here, we hike over alpine meadows, along the river "Engelbergeraa" and to the imposing and legendary waterfall "Stauber". Enjoy stunning panoramic views during this walk. En route, there are several small Alps and cheese farms, where you can enjoy a cup of coffee and taste some handmade cheese directly from the farmer. Arriving at the Fürenalp station, you travel back down by gondola to the Valley Station. Travel by bus back to Engelberg.



# DAILY ITINERARY

## **Monday 19 August** **Mount Titlis**

Meals: B

Walking: 3.5 - 4.5 hours

Overnight: Engelberg

Today travel on three different cable cars, including the world's first revolving cable car 'Rotair', to near the top of Mount Titlis (3,240 m). The summit provides stunning scenery and a chance to walk through a glacier grotto. Two stops back down at Truebsee (1,800 m) you have two choices: either walk the contour of a mountain lake and continue on down to Gerschnialp (1,300 m), or take a cable car and funicular to Gerschnialp.

After lunch, amble through the forest back to Engelberg.

## **Tuesday 20 August** **Engelberg – Appenzell**

Meals: B/D

Coach: 3 hours

Walking: 1 hour

Overnight: Appenzell

Travel by coach to Appenzell, a town in northeast Switzerland at the foot of the Alpstein mountains. Your first stop will be at Einsiedeln to visit the baroque Benedictine Abbey and its magnificent Black Virgin, which draws many pilgrims every year. After time for lunch continue to the small township of Werdenberg, the best-preserved and oldest complex of timber houses in Switzerland. A short walk takes you to Grabs, where you will reboard your coach and continue to Appenzell (780m), your base for the next three nights.

## **Wednesday 21 August** **Ebenalp**

Meals: B/D

Walking: 1.5 or 2 hours with local guide, with an optional additional 2 hours in either case

Overnight: Appenzell

Start the day with a 10-minute local train ride to Wasserauen, and then the cable car to Ebenalp (1,640m). Descend through the prehistoric cave of Wildkirchli and stop at the Aescher guesthouse, improbably jammed into a niche in the rock face. After time for lunch you can either walk back to Ebenalp and take the cable car back to Wasserauen, or walk all the way back to Wasserauen. From Wasserauen you can take the train back to Appenzell, or enjoy an easy 2-hour walk. Later this afternoon learn how to make bieber, a traditional local gingerbread.

## **Thursday 22 August** **St Gallen**

Meals: B

Walking: 2.5 hours

Overnight: Appenzell

A 45-minute train journey this morning takes you to St Gallen. On a guided tour visit the abbey library, which contains manuscripts dating back to the 8th century and is housed in a beautiful building that is lavishly decorated in a Baroque rococo style. Either spend the afternoon wandering through this delightful town and perhaps stay for dinner, or return to Appenzell for an afternoon walk. Return to Appenzell by train is at your leisure.





# DAILY ITINERARY

## **Friday 23 August** **Appenzell - Seefeld**

Meals: B/D  
Coach: 4 hours  
Overnight: Seefeld

Say farewell to Switzerland today as you cross the Rhine to Feldkirch in Austria. Traverse the Arlberg Pass (1,800 m), with a coffee stop at the famous winter resort of St Anton. Arrive at Seefeld (1,200 m), an old farming village in the Austrian state of Tyrol that is now a popular spot for summer walking and winter cross-country skiing. This is your base for the next three nights. There will be time for a stroll through the town before dinner.

## **Saturday 24 August** **Innsbruck**

Meals: B  
Local train: 40 minutes each way  
Walking: 2.5 hours with city guide  
Overnight: Seefeld

Ride a local train to the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck. The medieval old town, with spectacular mountain views, has a truly enchanting atmosphere. Discover some hidden highlights during your guided walking tour this morning. After time for lunch you are free to explore. You might visit the famous Swarovski Crystal World or one of Innsbruck's many interesting museums, and perhaps have dinner before returning to Seefeld.

## **Sunday 25 August** **Circular hike** **Wettersteinhütte, Tyrol**

Meals: B/D  
Local transport: 30 minutes  
Walking: 4 hours with local guide.  
Overnight: Seefeld

Travel by local transport to the start of well-maintained hiking trails, and after about an hour's walk reach the Hämmermoosalm mountain pasture. From there the path ascends slightly through spruce forests and then mountain pines, before reaching the Wetterstein hut (1,700 m) where there is time for a lunch break. The afternoon brings fantastic views of the Wetterstein mountains and the entire Seefeld plateau, with distant views into the Central Alps.



# DAILY ITINERARY

## **Monday 26 August** **Seefeld – Castelrotto**

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2.5 hours

Walking: 2 hours with city guide

Overnight: Castelrotto

Say goodbye to Austria and cross the Brenner Pass (1,374 m) into Italy. Here you are in South Tyrol, part of Italy but as its name suggests an area with close links to Austria (and where German is the dominant language). First stop is Bressanone, one of the most beautiful, historic and artistic towns in the region. During your guided two-hour walk, visit the town centre with its baroque cathedral and frescoes from the 14th to 16th century. After time for lunch continue to Castelrotto, or Kastelruth in German, (1,060 m) in the Italian Dolomites for a three-night stay.

## **Tuesday 27 August** **Siusi and the ancient mill**

Meals: B/D

Walking: 4 hours with local guide

Overnight: Castelrotto

Listen to the sounds filling the air, the rush of the streams and rivers, the chatter of birds and the rustle of branches in the breeze. Walk from the hotel to Telfen and continue on to Siusi (1,000 m) and an ancient water mill. Watch the miller work with different grains, and enjoy a picnic lunch nearby. Later return to your hotel by local bus.

## **Wednesday 28 August** **Alpe di Siusi**

Meals: B/D

Local buses: 10 minutes and 30 minutes

Walking: 4 hours with local guide

Overnight: Castelrotto

A short ride by local bus takes you to Seis, then a cable car to Compatsch (1,700 m). From here a trail leads to Moglignon hut (2,050 m). After time for a traditional lunch at the hut, continue to Passo Duron (2,200 m). Follow trails across farmland on the Alpe di Siusi, Europe's largest alpine plateau. Follow a circular trail back to Saltria, from where you return to Castelrotto by local bus.

## **Thursday 29 August** **Munich**

Meals: B

Walking: None

Overnight: Munich

After breakfast transfer by private coach to Munich. Discover the downtown area of this Bavarian capital. Your evening is free.

## **Friday 30 August** **Departure**

Meals: B/ inflight

Transfer to the airport for your homebound flight to New Zealand or for further travel in the UK or Europe. If you need post-tour accommodation to match your flights, the Calder & Lawson Tours team will be able to assist.

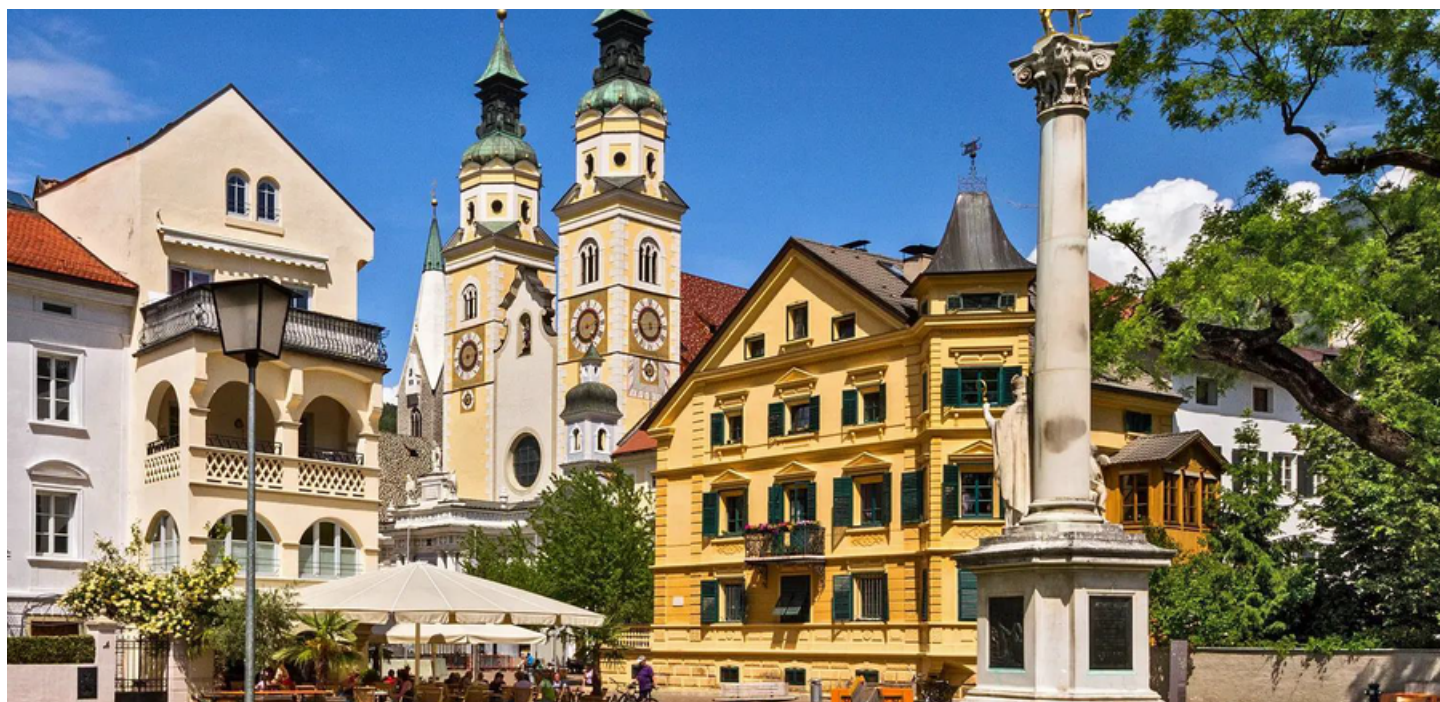


## HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached the tour will become a 'confirmed departure' and your deposit will be non-refundable.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit and your place in this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website [www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/](http://www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/) or call us and we will email or post one to you.

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## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website [www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/](http://www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/), on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration. There is a 1.5% surcharge if you pay by credit card.