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2017 Alpine Wanderer

2 Jun - 22 Jun 2017 - updated 11 Feb

DAY 1 Fri 2 Jun **Milano** After arriving in Milano check in at the UNA Hotel Century Via F. Filzi 25/B Stazione Centrale, Milano from 1400 on. You may choose to relax in the hotel or do some sightseeing in this vibrant city - a centre of fashion and innovation. Highlights include the Duomo, the Opera House, Leonardo da Vinci's 'Last Supper' (**must be booked in advance**) and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. The afternoon and evening are free to explore the city. We are staying for 1 night at the [UNA Hotel Century in Milano](#)

DAY 2 Sat 3 Jun **Milano to Bozen** 1000 check out. We will then head east on E64 and E70 to Brescia and Verona. Taking E45 we will drive to Sirmione for lunch. The afternoon and evening are free to explore BOZEN (BOLZANO) - an intriguing city with its meeting of Italian and Austrian culture. We will stay for 1 night at the [Parkhotel Luna Mondschein in Bozen](#) **B**

DAY 3 Sun 4 Jun **Bozen & Meran** After breakfast we will have the opportunity to visit the Sud Tirol Museum of Archaeology to see its star attraction: "OTZI", the ICEMAN. The mummified body of this hunter who lived 5300 years ago was found on the nearby Similaun Glacier in 1991. A short drive will take us up the Adige Valley to MERAN (MERANO) for a lunch stop. The afternoon will be spent visiting the Trauttmansdorff Gardens, regarded by many as the finest in Italy. Finally we will continue northwest towards the village of BURGEIS (Burgusio) in the Vinschgau. For the next 3 nights we will be the guests of the Theiner family at [Gasthof Zum Mohren in Burgeis](#). **B D**

DAY 4 Mon 5 Jun **WALK 1 Sesvenna Hutte 12km Grade 3** A good introduction to walking in the Alps. After taking a gondola to 2066m we will traverse a ridge high above the SCHLINIGER VALLEY and take lunch at the 'hutte', close to the Swiss border. Return to Burgeis by retracing our steps or via a hanging valley and the village of Schlinig. **B D**

DAY 5 Tue 6 Jun **WALK 2 Langtauferer 12km Grade 4 or 4km Grade 1** The UPPER KALINBACH Valley provides access to the magnificent Oetztaler Alps between Italy and Austria. A climb from the village of Melag takes us to the WEISSKUGEL HUTTE with breathtaking views of the glacier. Our return takes a different path, down to the Melager Alm and then back to Melag. The easier option stays lower in the valley and goes to Melager Alm for lunch **B D**

DAY 6 Wed 7 Jun **Burgeis to Ramsau** Leaving Italy via the Reschen Pass we will journey through Austria, passing INNSBRUCK, to Germany. Our destination is RAMSAU, a Bavarian village near BERCHTESGADEN. [Gasthof Oberwirt in Ramsau](#) will be our home for the next 4 nights **B**

DAY 7 Thur 8 Jun **Salzburg, Austria** A free day in this wonderful UNESCO World Heritage city. The birthplace of Mozart, the home of "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" and the centre of all things Baroque. Salzburg is a delight that you have a day and a night to explore. Avoiding the traffic we will catch a train to the centre of the city. Some of the highlights are Mozart's birthplace, shopping in the Old Town (particularly Getreidegasse), the Hohensalzburg Fortress, Schloss Mirabell, the 'Sound of Music Tour' and a river cruise. At night you could take in a Mozart concert or a 'Sound of Music Show' **B**

DAY 8 Fri 9 Jun **WALK 3 Hintersee Circuit 8km Grade 2** We will start the day with a cruise on KONIGSSEE with magnificent views of Germany's highest mountain, WATZMANN. After lunch by the lake or back in Ramsau we will head off on what is sure to be one of the most popular walks of the tour. The walk starts in the village and gently climbs through picturesque farmland to a 'hidden' lake - TAUBENSEE. An easy walk then takes us down to HINTERSEE, one of the most beautiful lakes in Germany. We then follow a mountain stream back to Ramsau. **B**



Ramsau, Germany



Walk 3 Hintersee - Bavaria



Sud Tirol - Italy

DAY 9 Sat 10 Jun **Berchtesgaden.** In the morning we will drive to Obersalzburg and visit KEHLSTEINHAUS, "the Eagle's Nest", built by Bormann in 1938 as a birthday present for Adolf Hitler. The views are spectacular and the atmosphere, eerie. After lunch in Berchtesgaden we will take a tour of one of the region's famous SALT MINES. **B**

DAY 10 Sun 11 Jun **Ramsau to Matri** Our next destination is the town of MATREI in Osttirol, Austria. We will be driving on one of Europe's most spectacular roads - **Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse** to Franz Josef Hohe where we will stop for lunch. On a clear day the views of the Hohe Tauern Alps including the two highest peaks in the country - Grossglockner (3797m) and Grossvenediger (3674m) are wonderful. Then we will drive on down to Matri, a small town in the Tyrol. We will stay for 3 nights at [Hotel Hintereggger, Matri in Osttirol](#) **B D**

DAY 11 Mon 12 Jun **WALK 4 Wasserfall Weg 10km Grade 3**, From a small alpine Inn we edge a field of wildflowers and ascend a set of magnificent waterfalls up both inclines and steps. There are many lookouts to watch the tumbling water. Our route up the Trojer Alm Bach (stream) takes us to an alpine meadow above the tree line, with glorious alpine views. We return via the waterfalls to a coffee, schnapps or whatever you fancy in the inn before returning to Matrei. **B D**

DAY 12 Tues 13 Jun **WALK 5 Steiner Bach Valley 12km Grade 2**
A vehicle will take us up 1000m to the trackhead, high above the village of Glanz. After going along the "EDELWEISSWEISSE, another 'balcony walk' for just over an hour we will descend into the Steiner Bach Valley. Passing the Alm we continue up the valley to a spectacular waterfall. (If you are really keen you could walk up the 700m to the Sudetendeutsche Hutte – **Grade 5**). Retracing our steps we will return to the "Steiner Alm" for homemade lemonade and the best apple strudel you may ever taste. We return to Glanz to collect our vehicle. **B D**

DAY 13 Wed 14 Jun **Matrei to Kranjska Gora, Slovenia**
Leaving Matrei we will head south to the town of LIENZ for an hour's stop. Then on through Villach and the Wurzenpass to cross into SLOVENIA and the spectacular JULIAN ALPS region. Our base will be the ski resort town of Kranjska Gora where we will staying with [Ales and Gabrielle Kosir](#) for 3 nights on their farm. **B**

DAY 14 Thur 15 Jun **Kranjska Gora** A free day to explore Kranjska Gora and its surrounds. The karst landscape is majestic and the culture and architecture is quite unique. An option will be to drive over the twisting Vrsic Pass to BOVEC – the setting for Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms". There is also an option of a Grade 2/3 valley walk into the Julian Alps. As well you can hire bicycles to explore the town **B**

DAY 15 Fri 16 Jun **WALK 6 Vintgar Gorge 8.5km Grade 2**
This walk is an easy, relatively flat, low level walk near the fashionable town of BLEED. The meltwater gorge, consisting of a series of cascades, waterfalls and deep pools is sure to entrance. The afternoon and evening are free to explore Bled and its nearby lake. Imposing **Bled Castle** has wonderful views and lunch on the terrace is memorable **B**



Tre Cime di Lavaredo, Dolomites, Italy



the Grand Canal – Venice



near Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

DAY 16 Sat 17 Jun **Kranjska Gora to Auronzo di Cadore, Italy** We leave Slovenia and head west across the border into Italy. Passing Tarvisio and TOLMEZZO, today's journey takes us into the heart of one of the most scenic regions of Europe: the DOLOMITES. Our destination is the alpine town of Auronzo di Cadore, set on a pristine lake, where we will be staying at the [Albergo Miravale](#) for 2 nights **B**

DAY 17 Sun 18 Jun **WALK 7 Tre Cime di Lavaredo 14km Grade 4 or 8km Grade 2/3**
This brilliant walk begins at 2320m and climbs to Refugio Pian di Cengia (2528m) – a scenic lunch spot in the Dolomites. We then descend across the face of MONTE PATERNO, the scene of heavy fighting in World War 1. A cup of hot chocolate will be welcome at Refugio Locatelli as we view the panorama of the Tre Cime. The shorter option will go around the other side of Monte Paterno, straight to Locatelli **B**

DAY 18 Mon 19 Jun **Auronzo di Cadore to Venice**
We will head south, out of the Alps to Venice. Firstly down the Piave Valley then onto the A23 autostrada to drive through the Veneto to the Adriatic coast. We will leave our vans near Piazzalle Roma and then catch a vaporetto down the GRAND CANAL to Castello and the nearby [Hotel Ca' Formenta](#) our home in Venice for 3 nights. **B**

DAYS 19 & 20 Tues 20 – Wed 21 Jun **Venice** Two free days to enjoy and explore the delights of Venice or VENEZIA, as the locals call it. Cruise the canals by vaporetto or, for the more romantic (and wealthy), by gondola. Although famous for its waterways, Venezia is best explored on foot. Narrow 'calle' (streets) linked by 'ponti' (bridges) will take you past palaces, museums, theatres and wonderful shops. Don't miss PIAZZA SAN MARCO with its magnificent Basilica and famous cafes. The Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale) is also most interesting with a fascinating map room, Great Hall and prisons reached via the Bridge of Sighs. Churches are everywhere - wonderful religious architecture filled with works of art. On Tuesday morning a THREE ISLAND EXCURSION (including MURANO and BURANO, famous for glassware and lacework respectively) is complimentary, as is a VENICE CITY WALKING TOUR + ST MARKS BASILICAs on Wednesday. **B B**

DAY 21 Thur 22 Jun **Venice to Milano** Our tour ends in Venice at 0900 or Milano at 1300. **B**

NB Hotels subject to confirmation and this itinerary is subject to change in accordance with the terms and conditions in the brochure.
B = breakfast D = dinner

INCLUSIONS

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| • 20 nights accommodation | Breakfast every day + 6 dinners |
| • Travel by minibus | |
| • the services of qualified English speaking guides and drivers | |
| • 7 guided walks | Comprehensive travel notes |
| • ENTRY FEES | Museum of Archaeology, Bozen Trauttmansdorf Gardens & Castle Kehlsteinhaus salt mine |
| | Obersalzberg documentation centre Cruise on Konigsee Vintgar Gorge Dolomites National Park |
| • TOURS | Walking tour of Venice Venice 3 island tour (Burano, Murano & Torcello) |
| • EXTRAS | return train from Berchtesgaden to Salzburg Venice - 3 day vaporetto pass chairlifts – Burgeis + Matrei |

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