

# AUSTRIAN ALPS WALKING HOLIDAY

## 'Classic' Tour Program (Subject to change)



TOUR DAYS	PROPOSED WALKS & ACTIVITIES
<b>ARRIVAL &amp; ORIENTATIONS</b>	Be met by your host Patrick in Feldkirch. Drive up through Grosses Walsertal valley (stopping for lunch along the way) to your 'home' in Faschina at 1480 altitude metres. Settle into your accommodation and then go for a walk to stretch the legs and familiarise yourself with the beautiful surrounds. Welcome drink and dinner with your Hosts to celebrate the start of the tour.
<b>FONTANELLA VILLAGE &amp; FASCHINA FLOWER TRAIL</b>	Get introduced to Patrick's home village of Fontanella (population 470!). Gain an insight into how little alpine villages operate, and in so doing you'll go back to another era – a slower time where townsfolk stop in the street for a leisurely chat. We then go back up to explore Faschina's surrounding mountains, lake and the beautiful 'Blumenlehrpfad' (flower discovery trail). Lunch at Franz Josef's restaurant in 'the bowl'. Celebrate the Summer Solstice with the locals – an evening bonfire with alpine music on a mountain top.
<b>DAMUELS DAIRY &amp; GERMAN LANGUAGE LESSON</b>	We go to the neighbouring valley area of Damuels. We visit a working alp hut to see how their traditional cheese is made before embarking on an ascent to the top of Suenser Spitze summit (2061m). We picnic up in the heights today – overlooking vistas of endless mountain tops. Back at the hotel (over coffee & cake) we have some fun learning some German language as well as the local 'Walser' dialect.
<b>LECH am ARLBERG PLATEAU</b>	Experience the famed 'Arlberg' mountain massif as well as the village of Lech - chosen by Princess Diana and Europe's jet-set crowd each winter. Our lunch destination is a 500+ year old Walser settlement, where traditional alpine fare of cheese, meat & bread are on offer (accompanied by schnapps for those willing!)
<b>STEIN MOUNTAIN &amp; MARTHA'S HUT</b>	We'll take a spectacular bus ride through to the other side of the G.W. valley to start today's walk. We walk up and over a pass to Martha's Hut to enjoy her hospitality, then enjoy a meandering walk down the other side through flower-filled meadows and a 'Sound Garden' to a quaint chapel. We return to our side of the valley via a cable car over the stunning ravine which is 'Grosses Walsertal'.
<b>SIGHTSEEING DAY: LINDAU IS., GERMANY</b>	A day to give the legs a bit of a rest. We drive to Bregenz, one of Austria's famed cultural cities, on the edge of Lake Constance (Bodensee) to take a ferry 'overseas' to the beautiful old medieval town of Lindau in Germany. Shopping, dining, strolling or just sitting by the pretty harbour – whatever takes your fancy.
<b>ZAFERNHORN PEAK &amp; BERG TEA PROJECT</b>	Hike the mountain that sits grandly in front of your hotel – for the keen ones the summit awaits at 2107m. Beautiful views down the Grosses Walsertal are a highlight of this walk. Enjoy the alpine speciality of 'Raclette' for lunch, before spending the afternoon with Elisabeth (Patrick's mother). She will introduce the local flowers, herbs and folklore which make the Berg Tee Project – culminating in the making of your own!
<b>LIECHTENSTEIN ALPS</b>	We drive across the border into the Principality of Liechtenstein to visit Malbun, another Walser alpine village nestled in amongst the rugged mountains. After our walking in the Liechtenstein Alps we stop for a sightseeing visit to the capital city of Vaduz, whose dominating castle is still inhabited by its royal family.
<b>LOCAL MUSEUM &amp; BUCHBODEN VALLEY</b>	A guided tour of the local museum with Elisabeth will help comprehend the history, traditions and environmental significance of this lovely valley. We then go to explore Grosses Walsertal from a different angle – from within its cool and lush valley floor. Crystal clear rivers and natural grottos provide delight along this walk, as does the health spring which has attracted visitors for over 400 years. A drink and dinner with your hosts is a celebration of the time had together on tour.
<b>DEPARTURE, MONASTERY &amp; FELDKIRCH</b>	Pack up and say good bye to your alpine home of Faschina. Drive down Grosses Walsertal one last time, with a stop at the St Gerold monastery. We then go to Feldkirch to lunch together at the medieval Schattenburg Schloss (castle). The must have dish is their famed Wiener Schnitzel – a fitting end to this trip.