

AUSTRIA – ST JAKOB PILGRIM TRAIL: THE AUSTRIAN CAMINO

8-days / 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking from Salzburg to Tyrol

NEW TOUR FOR 2024



In the Middle Ages, pilgrims headed to Santiago de Compostela from all parts of Europe, so there are variants of the Way of St James snaking across the continent, like tributaries of a river. This self-guided walking tour combines delightful Austrian Alpine walking with the pilgrimage path Jakobsweg, the Austrian Camino.

The Jakobsweg begins at the Austrian-Slovakian border near Bratislava or Wolfsthal in Lower Austria, then threads its way to Switzerland. This walk takes in one of the finest sections of the Jakobsweg, from outside Salzburg into the Austrian Tyrol. Surrounded by soaring peaks, walking alongside rushing rivers, breathing in clean mountain air, with opportunity to reflect and meditate.

Starting in the Salzburg lake district, home to some of Austria's most picturesque lakes that are dotted among rolling farmland and idyllic villages. The route crosses this charming district to Salzburg itself, well-known as the town of Mozart and *The Sound of Music*. There are many significant pilgrimage churches along your route, including the basilica of Maria Plain on the outskirts of Salzburg where Mozart's *Krönungsmesse* (Coronation Mass) was first performed. Cross briefly into Germany then finish your walk at St Johann in Tirol, flanked by the impressive Kitzbühel Horn and the jagged Wilder Kaiser massif.

Departs: Daily from 27 April to 6 October 2024

Cost from: **\$1545** per person twin share Single room supplement from \$295
High season supplement \$120 - \$215 per person applies from mid-May to mid-September

Starts: Salzburger Seenland (Salzburg Lake District) **Ends:** St Johann in Tirol

Includes: 7 nights' twin-share accommodation in comfortable hotels with ensuite bathroom; 7 breakfasts; welcome briefing; detailed travel notes and route maps (1 set per room); navigation App & GPS data on request; transfers from Trumer Lakes to Oberhofen; luggage transfers; emergency telephone assistance hotline.

Not included: Other meals not mentioned, drinks, sightseeing/entrance fees; personal expenses, city tourist taxes (approx. €2-4 per person per night), transfers to/from the start and end of the walk.

Grading: Moderate, with daily stages of 13 to 27km over 4 to 6½ hours of walking and 130 to 450 metres of ascent/descent. Routes are mostly on sealed roads, forest paths and mountain trails. Longer walks can be shortened by using local buses or trains, at own expense.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Salzburger Seenland

Plan to arrive in the Salzburger Seenland (Salzburg lake district) in the afternoon. Our usual hotel is in quiet Seeham, on Lake Obertrumer, easily reached by bus from Salzburg. Seeham was a fashionable summer resort in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and has more recently become known for its organic farming.

Day 2: Oberhofen - Eugendorf

walking @ 25km

Start with a short transfer to Oberhofen am Irsee, where you join St Jakob's Trail (Jakobsweg), the Austrian section of the ancient pilgrimage route the Way of St James. Pilgrims would eventually cross into Switzerland and France, then tread the more familiar route from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela. Your goal today however is the little town of Eugendorf. Walking on quiet country roads and field paths past green hills, you reach the Wenger Moor bird sanctuary and follow the shore of Lake Waller to Eugendorf.

Day 3: Eugendorf - Salzburg

walking @ 13km

Again, the mountains are visible in the distance as you walk mostly downhill to Salzburg. You may like to detour to the basilica of Maria Plain, perched on a hill overlooking the city. The climb is rewarded with wonderful views of Salzburg and the surrounding mountains and adds about five kilometres to your route. Perhaps after dinner treat yourself to Salzburger Nockerl, a sweet soufflé shaped like the peaks of the local mountains.

Day 4: Salzburg - Bad Reichenhall

walking @ 17km

Cross the city, heading towards the Untersberg massif. Skirt the base of Untersberg and head for Germany. At Schloss Marzoll cross the German border and enter the region known locally as the Rupertiwinkel, named after the 7th century St Rupert, the first bishop of Salzburg. The day ends in the Bavarian salt mining and spa town Bad Reichenhall. You may like to refresh your legs with a soak in one of the thermal baths.

Day 5: Bad Reichenhall - Unken

walking @ 18km

Follow the River Saalach back towards Austria and walk along the shores of Saalachsee. Past the lake the walk is largely on quiet forest paths which take you deeper into the mountains. The winding route continues to follow the idyllic Saalach to Unken. The small village of Unken is surrounded by scenic mountain ranges.

Day 6: Unken - Waidring

walking @ 21km

Continue into the widening Saalach valley towards the charming mountain village of Lofer. Its well-preserved historic centre surrounded by the imposing peaks of the Loferer Steinberge served as a location for the Clint Eastwood film *Where Eagles Dare*. After passing through Lofer, ascend to the Strubpass and into the Tyrol.

Day 7: Waidring - St Johann in Tyrol

walking @ 18km or 27km

Today's route takes you past the glittering waters of Lake Piller and the parish church of St Jacob, with the Kitzbühel Alps and the craggy Wilder Kaiser range constantly in view. Perhaps take a side trip on Buchsteinwand cable car up to Jakobskreuz (Jacob's Cross). You can shorten the day's walk by taking a local bus or train. Enjoy a drink at the Gasthof before visiting the Baroque parish church to receive your Way of St James stamp.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in St Johann. St Johann is connected by train to Salzburg, Innsbruck and Munich.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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