



# Cycle the Salzkammergut lakes

**a sports journey**

between stone and water

✓ **WITH LUGGAGE TRANSFER**



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It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them.

**Ernest Hemingway, American writer, 1899 - 1961**



Crystal-clear lakes, historic towns and picturesque villages - the idyllic Salzkammergut is probably one of the most scenic regions in the Alps. Unique is the mining of salt, which reaches far into history, which has had a lasting impact on the cultural area. These characteristics also convinced the Unesco Committee, which included the Hallstatt - Dachstein/Salzkammergut region in the list of World Heritage Sites in 1997. The Salzkammergut with Bad Ischl was also named European Capital of Culture in 2024, highlighting the richness, diversity and commonalities of this cultural heritage in Europe.

During the bike tour, the fairytale-like landscape, a combination of refreshing lakes, lush green lovely alpine pastures and mountains, can be discovered from the saddle. The trail leads to the five largest and most popular lakes in the Salzkammergut, past impressive mountain peaks, such as the bizarre rocks of the up to 2995-meter-high Dachstein massif, and to cultural sights in the region. The lakes become pleasantly warm in summer and invite you to take a swimming break; these include, for example, the deep blue Traunsee, the impressive Mondsee and the turquoise-blue Attersee. Look forward to a spectacular week and relaxed cycling.

## Highlights

- + **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE REGION OF LAKE HALLSTATT WITH HALLSTATT**
- + **SELECTED LAKESIDE CYCLE PATHS - ALSO AT THE FAMOUS WOLFGANGSEE**
- + **3 BOAT TRIPS, INCLUDING ACROSS LAKE TRAUNSEE, THE GATEWAY TO THE SALZKAMMERGUT**
- + **AMBIENCE IN BAD ISCHL, ONCE AN IMPERIAL SUMMER RETREAT AND EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2024**
- + **TURQUOISE-BLUE LAKE ATTERSEE WITH CARIBBEAN FLAIR**



# The course of your cycling tour:

## Day 1: Individual arrival in the former imperial summer residence of Bad Ischl

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Ischl became known as a holiday home of European standing from the middle of the 19th century, when Emperor Franz Joseph began to spend the holidays in his summer residence in Ischl. In 1906, the small town in the heart of the Salzkammergut was awarded the title of "health resort". At the beginning of the trip, visit the famous Café Zauner and enjoy the delicious pastries of the region. The detailed travel documents are ready for you at the hotel.

(1 night in Bad Ischl)

## Day 2: Along wildly romantic mountain valleys and turquoise blue lakes

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At the start from Bad Ischl, down the Traun, you reach the Weißenbach valley in Mitterweißenbach, a scenic treat in the Salzkammergut. The cycle path through the wildly romantic mountain valley leads over long stretches through wooded areas. In the village of Weißenbach you reach the Attersee, which takes on a fabulous turquoise blue hue in summer and is therefore also known as the 'Sea of the Salzkammergut'. Along this southern area of Lake Attersee, the impression of a real mountain lake predominates, because here the abruptly falling walls of the Hölleengebirge dominate the picture. The mostly flat route runs via Unterach am Attersee to the crescent-shaped Mondsee. On the western shore of Mondsee, the narrow road winds directly along the lakeshore and below the steeply sloping Drachenwand through well-kept farmland. Finally, via the picturesque village of St. Lorenz, you reach the summer resort of Mondsee with its castle and the adjoining basilica, which can be seen from afar.

(1 Night in Mondsee)

**Bicycle distance: approx. 44 km (altitude difference: ascent 440 m / descent: 360 m)**



## Day 3: Grandiose 3-lake tour in the Salzkammergut

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After the start in Mondsee, the route leads along the Mondsee through Loibichl to Innerschwand, with the Mondseeberg resting behind you. On the Konradweg it runs past wonderfully colorful fields to the wooded hills of the Attergau. Along narrow roads, the route winds partly on asphalt, partly on gravel roads to Oberwang. We continue to Straß; shortly after St. Georgen i. Attergau you come across the Salzkammergut cycle path and finally reach the northern end of Lake Attersee in Seewalchen. The picturesque places around Lake Attersee once inspired Gustav Klimt to create many of his works of art; a museum was therefore dedicated to him in Seewalchen. During the drive to Aurach a. Hongar you have a beautiful view of the imposing Hölleengebirge to the south. There are still a few climbs to overcome to the city of ceramics, Gmunden, on Austria's deepest lake, Lake Traunsee, but the view of the city and the lake compensates for the efforts on this section. From Gmunden, you use the ship to comfortably pass the mighty Traunstein with its 1000 meter steeply sloping rock face as well as the idyllic and historic Traunkirchen peninsula and reach Ebensee at the end of the day.

(1 night in Ebensee)

**Bicycle distance: approx. 50 km (altitude difference: ascent 710 m/ descent: 830 m)**

### **Alternative route: On Austria's largest inland lake - Lake Attersee**

Follow the idyllically situated lakeside road to the end of the Mondsee in Marienau. A short distance along the Seeache and Unterach am Attersee is reached. For the summer retreat, the Attersee was discovered relatively late; it was not until the end of the 19th century that a new free spirit developed here, which tried to distance itself from the more noble aristocracy. With the artists Klimt and Mahler, artists' colonies sprang up and cultural life increasingly developed. Along the waterfront of Unterach, which used to be called Little Venice, you pass stylish villas and several boathouses. Always close to the shore, the route continues along the lake, past the remains of a pile dwelling settlement to Seewalchen, where the alternative route and the normal route reunite. The alternative route runs mainly along federal roads, but offers a variety of wonderful views of the lakes.

**Bicycle distance: approx. 62 km (altitude difference: ascent 450 m/ descent: 570 m)**



## Day 4: Along the Traun and Ischl rivers

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The Ebensee Bay on the southern shore of Lake Traunsee offers optimal conditions for water sports enthusiasts under sail in summer. It is a spectacle for the eye to watch the many surfers perform their tricks. Now, however, you leave the saltworks town of Ebensee, where salt has been refined for more than 400 years, and follow the route of the brine pipeline. Through this pipeline, which is the oldest operational one in the world, the brine from the mines is transported for further processing in Ebensee. Upstream, you now follow the mountain river Traun, whose origin lies in the furthest corners of the Styrian Salzkammergut, a region with countless lakes, springs and streams, underground water and cave systems, glacial streams and waterfalls. Finally, you reach the former imperial city of Bad Ischl. From here you turn west, following the small river Ischl in the direction of Lake Wolfgang. The route leads through small villages, such as Pfandl, where salt was boiled as early as the 12th century, and on via Radau to Sankt Wolfgang. Worth seeing here is the pilgrimage church, which was dedicated to St. Wolfgang from Regensburg. It houses art-historical treasures. Just opposite is the well-known hotel "Weisses Rössl", where a stop is worthwhile. By the way, the steepest steam cogwheel railway in Austria starts in Sankt Wolfgang up to the 1782-meter-high Schafberg. The lake is now crossed by bicycle ferry and you follow the former route of the Salzkammergut local train through the Blinkingmoos nature reserve to Strobl.

(1 night in Strobl)

**Bicycle distance: approx. 43 km (altitude difference: ascent 300 m/ descent: 160 m)**

## Day 5: At the mystical Lake Hallstatt

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From Strobl you ride back to the European Capital of Culture 2024, Bad Ischl, and on to the Inner Salzkammergut. You pass Ischl's local mountain, the Katrin, the pilgrimage site of Lauffen and finally Bad Goisern, known for its craftsmanship. Here you reach Lake Hallstatt. The following section on the eastern shore of the lake, which is reminiscent of a Norwegian fjord, is unobstructed, the view of the Dachstein Mountains including the glacier is fantastic and the route is spectacular. The flank of the Sarstein plunges almost vertically into the lake here and the climbing system floating above the water gives the impression of riding above the water. In Obertraun you reach the southernmost part of the lake, circle it and reach the picture-book town of Hallstatt. The almost perfect ensemble of narrow streets, historic houses, lake panorama and the cultural heritage from the Hallstatt period make this place world-famous. The ferry takes you back to the quieter eastern shore of the lake and the journey back to Bad Ischl.

(1 night in Bad Ischl)



Bicycle distance: approx. 59 km (altitude difference: ascent 490 m/ descent: 570 m)

## Day 6: Individual departure or additional nights

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For all those who want to spend even more time in the Salzkammergut, additional nights can be reserved. How about a trip to the Rettenbach Valley, which is rich in alpine pastures, with its adjoining gorge? If you prefer to be pampered, the thermal bath in Bad Ischl is recommended; Here you can relax wonderfully. Otherwise, today it is time to say goodbye to the Inner Salzkammergut.



© Edwin Husic



## GENERAL INFORMATION:

The cycle tours don't have any technical difficulties, there are only very few ascents! A reasonable fitness level is necessary to enjoy this trip as well as cycle equipment like sneakers, rucksack, sun- and rain protection, comfortable sports cloths, jacket, jumper, and so on. The routes are suited for trekking bikes - mostly they are asphalted cycle paths, a few stretches are gravel and forest paths. Should you want to spend a quiet day, you can cover most distances by public transport like bus, train or boat.

## Arrangement

- 5x** Overnight stays with breakfast buffet in \*\*\*hotels / inns (in Bad Ischl \*\*\*\*)
- 1x** welcome video with explanations and information that you need for the tour
- 1x** cycling map - Salzkammergut area and further information (1 x per room)
- 1x** boat trip from Gmunden to Ebensee incl. bike
- 1x** boat trip from St. Wolfgang - Abersee incl. bike
- 1x** boat trip on Lake Hallstatt incl. bike
- 1x** Salzkammergut Souvenir
- +** Daily luggage transfer - max. 2 pcs. / person and max. 25 kg / piece of luggage
- +** A tree for your booking – we plant a tree for your booking
- +** Daily cycle and break-down service from 8 am – 6 pm (only for rented bikes)
- +** Service hotline daily from 8 am – 6 pm (also on weekends)



## Rates per person and arrangement in €:

	19.05. – 01.07.25 01.09. – 04.10.25	01.07. – 01.09.25
<b>2x 4* hotel in Bad Ischl + 3 x 3*hotels/inns in double room with breakfast</b>	705,00	745,00
<b>Supplement half board per week (min. 2 course dinner)</b>	189,00	189,00
<b>Supplement single room per week</b>	269,00	269,00
<b>Additional night double room with breakfast</b>	72,00	72,00
<b>Additional night supplement for half board</b>	25,00	25,00
<b>Additional night supplement for single room</b>	22,00	22,00
<b>Additional night in Bad Ischl</b>	on request	on request
<b>Arrival day</b>	daily	daily

The local tax, also known as visitor's tax, is payable locally to the landlord; the amount depends on the resort and is between 1,00€ and 4,00€ per person per night. Children up to the age of 15 are usually exempt.

### Accommodation:

Twin-bedded rooms in Austrian resorts are normally one large base with two mattresses/duvets. These are also known as 'Austrian Twins' and are regarded as two beds. Separate twin beds are rare and cannot be guaranteed as available.

Location of the accommodation are mainly close to the trails.

### Information for arrivals by car:

The parking place does not always situate next to the accommodation but on a public parking place. (Possibly costs have to be paid on spot)

**The standard terms and conditions of the Salzkammergut Touristik GmbH apply in the current version.**

**Rates and operating hours / timetables are subject to change**

**Our recommendations: Get a travel cancellation insurance.**





## Bike rental

Rates per bike in €	4 days
Trekking bike 21-gear KTM	72,00
E-Bike Flyer (from 158 cm)	144,00
Mountain bike	120,00
E-mountain bike hard tail	188,00
E-mountain bike fully	228,00
Children's bike (up to 145 cm)	60,00
Child's seat (max. 1 seat per bike)	60,00
Children's trailer	60,00
1 Bicycle-bag	12,00
Helmet	12,00
Mobile phone holder	12,00

Please note: Price on request for extra-large bikes (body height [gt] 190 cm)

- We strongly recommend the use of helmets! *For children up to 11,9 years, helmets are mandatory to wear in Austria (also in child bike seats or trailers)*
- E-Bike suitable for 12 yrs or older
- Loss of the bicycle key: charge of 20,00 €.
- The tenant is liable for damage or theft.

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## Informations



For environmental reasons, we recommend arriving and departing by public transport (train/bus). We are happy to help you organise your train journey within Austria. Talk to us!

## "A tree for your booking" - Cooperation project with Austrian Federal Forests

For every bike or hiking tour in the region booked with us, a tree is planted in the Weißenbach valley - near Bad Ischl. With this campaign we want to generate awareness for climate-friendly travel and take responsibility for a world worth living in.



The **UNESCO World Heritage List** currently lists 1,154 natural and cultural sites from 167 countries worldwide. The excellent cultural and natural monuments have an extraordinary universal value that must be preserved in the long term. Austria is represented with 10 World Heritage Sites.

The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzammergut 2024 brought the diversity of historically rooted and contemporary art and culture to the forefront and raised it to an international level.



### Level of difficulty

Moderate: hilly with a few climbs, a basic level of fitness is recommended