Hello! I am pleased you are interested in joining me on Hiking Austria’s Lechweg, a guided trip following the Lech River from western Austria into Germany. I will be leading this trip for the fourth time. The scenery is gorgeous. The trails are beautifully maintained. The hotels and meals on this trip are probably the best of the many trips that I have led. To get a good idea of how wonderful this trip is, hold the Ctrl key and click on: https://photos.app.goo.gl/GLHUBq7qN4alVEU2 to see photos taken by Rozi Kovedi, a participant on the 2017 Austria’s Lechweg trip. Her photos also include some days spent in Munich after the trip. Please read the information carefully, and then contact me if you
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Lechweg follows the beautiful turquoise River Lech for almost 78 miles, from its spring near the Formarinsee lake in Austria to the Lechfall waterfall in Füssen in Germany. It is one of only twelve long distance hiking routes in Europe certified by the European Ramblers Association as “Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe”.

have specific questions about this trip: Carl Rosenthal 603-447-1858; crosenthal789@msn.com.
Although we follow the Lech valley, our route often leaves the Lechweg to includes days hiking in the high mountains which rise above each side of the valley. We also spend some days in the valley wending our way through some pretty villages on good paths and tracks. The Lechweg crosses over a stunning 660 ft long suspension bridge and leads up to the royal castle of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, Neuschwanstein.

OVERVIEW

12 nights guided trip with baggage transfers between hotels.

There are 2 ½ - 6 hours hiking per day, not counting breaks. The hikes range in length from 4 – 13 miles. The highest altitude is 8300 feet. The greatest total daily ascent is 2200 feet, and the greatest total daily descent is 3500 feet. 1600 feet altitude gain and 2200 feet loss are a typical daily average.

Accommodations are in 3* and 4* hotels, 9 nights bed, breakfast & dinner and 3 nights bed & breakfast.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU

You should be curious about other cultures and comfortable traveling in areas which are unfamiliar to you. You should recognize that you may find yourself in closer quarters or be less comfortable than you are used to at home. You should make it a priority to help others on the trip and contribute to their having a great time. If you do that, I guarantee that you will have a great time.

This trip is rated 4: Moderate (Some experience with and fitness for the expected activity is required. Expect to be active up to 4-6 hours per day. Reasonable breaks in the action.) to 5: Vigorous (Suitable for those with recent related experience and demonstrated proficiency in the expected activity and the ability to perform at the expected level for back-to-back days. Expect to be active up to 5-6 hours per day, with brief breaks.). To see the entire rating system, click on: https://www.outdoors.org/adventures/trip-rating/. You must be able to hike up to six hours a day, not including breaks at a moderate pace, with elevation gains of up to 2,200 feet, while carrying enough equipment in your day pack to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. Please see the gear list below.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OF ME

My number one trip priority will be to see that you have a wonderful experience on the trip and return home safely.

I hope to make this trip as cost effective as possible. Because we will have the full-time services of an excellent guide, I will be the only leader. You are welcome to use frequent flyer miles or make your own flight arrangements, possibly arriving earlier or staying on later then the group.
Daily Itinerary

Please note, the times below are walking times and do not include stops on the way for lunch etc.

Day 0 Sunday August 27th
Fly from USA to Munich, Germany

Day 1 Monday August 28th
Arrive Lech Am Arlberg, Austria

Travel to starting point. Transport from the Munich airport will be arranged. Orientation meeting in the evening.

Meals included: Evening meal

Day 2 Tuesday August 29th
Lechweg section 1 – Formarinsee to Lech Am Arlberg

We take a private bus and then have a short walk up to the Formarinsee lake (6200 ft) and then on to a fabulous viewpoint near the Freiburger hut. Then we have a gentle and interesting descent of the main valley on paths running close to the Lech River. The trail crosses mountain pastures and passes the Steinbock Monument, a reminder of the resettlement of Ibex into the wild in 1958. One of the largest ibex colonies in Europe lives in this area. We walk back to our hotel in Lech.

12 miles, 5 ½ hours. Total ascent 1000 ft. Descent 2500 ft. Highest point 6300 ft.

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal at Lech
Day 3 Wednesday August 30th
A circuit above Lech Am Alberg

Using the Rüfikopt cable car from Lech we can start the hike at 7736 ft. After a visit to the interesting viewing platform the route takes us to the photogenic Monzabonsee lake. From there an undulating route leads to the Stuttgarten hut (7600 ft) and continues down to the village of Zürs where we take a bus back to Lech.

8 miles, 5 hours. Total ascent 1400 ft. Descent 3500 ft. Highest point 8000 ft.

Meals:  Breakfast and evening meal at Lech

Day 4 Thursday August 31st
Lechweg section 2 – Lech Am Arlberg to Warth

The second section of the Lechweg passes through the village of Stubenbach then stays close to the river through a ravine, before a climb up to Warth.
However, if the weather is good, we take the Oberlech chairlift to start the walk at 6300 ft. We soon pass a fascinating area of eroded Gypsum and continue to the farmstead and church at Burstegg. The well graded descent to Warth can be shortened by using a chairlift. Finally, we take a bus ride from Warth to Lech.

9 miles, 3 ½ hours. Total ascent 800 ft. Descent 600 ft. Highest point 4800 ft. or, High route 9 miles, 5 hours. Total ascent 1700 ft. Descent 3100 ft. Highest point 6300 ft.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Lech.

Day 5 Friday September 1st  
Lechweg section 3 – Hägerau

The third section of the Lechweg starts at Warth which we reach by taking a short bus ride. The route passes through the hamlet of Lechleiten along easy tracks above the valley before dropping down to the village of Steeg. The trail continues along the side of the River Lech to our next hotel on the outskirts of the village of Hägerau.

12 miles, 5 ½ hours. Total ascent 1300 ft. Descent 2550 ft. Highest point 5100 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Lech and evening meal at Hägerau.
Day 6 Saturday September 2nd
A day off

One popular option for this day off is a short walk to the village of Holzgau which is about a level mile from the hotel or a very short bus ride. The village has many huge frescos decorating the outside walls of houses, some of which date back to 1800. The parish church Maria Himmelfahrt (Assumption of the Virgin Mary) is well worth a visit and contains an unusual relic brought from Rome. A stroll down to the village of Bach (1 ½ hrs) for a lazy lunch before a bus back to Hägerau works well. Otherwise, the excellent and inexpensive bus network allows some leisurely sightseeing.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Hägerau.

Day 7 Sunday September 3rd
Lechweg section 4 – Hägerau to Elbigenalp

The fourth section of the Lechweg passes through the village of Holzgau before climbing to cross the Hohenbacht valley via the splendid suspension bridge. The route passes the hamlet of Kraichen and then follows the river through Bach to Elbigenalp. An alternative route takes the Jochelspitzbahn cable car at Kraichen to follow a delightful high-level route, the Alpenroseweg, followed by a well graded descent to Elbigenalp.
8 miles, 3 ½ hours. Total ascent 1100 ft. Descent 1200 ft. Highest point 4100 ft. or, High route
12 miles, 6 hours. Total ascent 2200 ft. Descent 3900 ft. Highest point 6300 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Hägerau and evening meal at Elbigenalp

![Holzgau suspension bridge](image)

**Day 8 Monday September 4th**
**Lechweg section 5 – Elbigenalp to Stanzach**

The fifth section of the Lechweg is on easy paths and forest tracks with several panoramic viewpoints and attractive villages. After the village of Haeselgehr the Lechweg passes the Doser waterfall – where the water comes from a cave and dries up on St. Martin’s Day (November 11th) and springs back on St. George’s Day (April 23rd). According to legend, a dragon is responsible for this - it lets the stream flow and disappear at the right times.

11 miles, 6 hours. Total ascent 1900 ft. Descent 2200 ft. Highest point 3600 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Elbigenalp. The hotel at Stanzach does not have a restaurant so we will need to eat at a local restaurant – cost of this meal is not included in the holiday price.

![Doser Waterfall](image)
**Day 9 Tuesday September 5th**  
**Lechweg section 6 – Stanzach to Höfen**

Whilst the sixth section of the Lechweg follows the valley bottom to Höfen we usually choose a more interesting route. A short bus ride to Weissenbach from where we pass through the small village of Rieden and then climb on well graded forest tracks to the ruined Festung fortress (4161 ft) and Ehrenburg castle with stunning views over the Lech valley. The route continues down to our hotel in Höfen.

12 miles, 5 hours. Total ascent 1650 ft. Descent 1750 ft. Highest point 4161 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Stanzach. The hotel at Höfen does not have a restaurant and we will eat at a nearby restaurant. The cost of this meal is not included in the holiday price.

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**Day 10 Wednesday September 6th**

**A day off at Höfen**

The interesting town of Reutte is a short bus ride away where there are plenty of shops, restaurants and a museum. On the outskirts of Höfen is the Hahnenkamm cable car which goes up to 5679 ft and which gives access to many easy and less easy walks.

Meals: Breakfast at Höfen. The hotel at Höfen does not have a restaurant and we will eat at a restaurant a few minutes walk from the hotel – cost of this meal is not included in the holiday price.
Day 11 Thursday September 7th

Lechweg section 7 – Höfen to Hohenschwangau (Germany)

A long section of the Lechweg takes us past an excellent bakery in Wangle, the Frauensee lake and through the village of Pflach and up over the border into Germany. The final section passes the Alpsee lake with good views of the castles of Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein.

13 miles, 6 hours. Total ascent 1700 ft. Descent 2000 ft. Highest point 3300 ft.

Meals: Breakfast at Höfen and evening meal Hohenschwangau

Day 12 Friday September 8th

Visit to the Neuschwanstein castle and final section of the Lechweg to Füssen, Germany
We will try and visit the castle as early as possible to avoid the crowds that build up during the day, this being one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. We will organise a booking for the whole group and arrange to collect the tickets. Payment can be made on the day.

The final section of the Lechweg passes between the Alpsee and Schwansee lakes before the final climb of the Lechweg to a hilltop chapel with good views over the rooftops of Füssen. A path leads down to the Lechfall waterfall the end of the Lechweg trail. A short walk through the town leads to our hotel. There should be time to explore the interesting town.

4 miles, 2 ½ hours. Total ascent 700 ft. Descent 700 ft. Highest point 3100 ft.

Meals: Breakfast and evening meal at Füssen.

*Bishops's Palace, Füssen*

**Day 13 Saturday September 9th**

**End of tour**
The trip concludes after breakfast.

**ACCOMMODATIONS & MEAL SUMMARY**

We will be staying in a range of 3* and 4* hotels with 9 nights bed, breakfast & dinner and three nights bed & breakfast. Full details of all hotels will be provided later.

**Important information concerning twin bed rooms** - the Austrian standard "twin" bed can be a surprise. A twin bedroom in Austria is usually two mattresses made up as singles but in/on one base unit - NOT two separate beds. Rather too cozy for some people. We have managed to find hotels that can provide up to 3 or 4 twin bed rooms with two separate beds, but on one or two nights this cannot be guaranteed.
**Baggage transfers**

During the trip all baggage transfers will be arranged between hotels.

**Local transport included**

There are three or four days when we expect to use local buses, cable cars and/or chairlifts. The cost of this is included in the trip price.

**Trip Price**

The AMC Member price is $2,740. The non-member price is $2,840. To join the AMC (2021 pricing $50 individual, $75 family) click [here](#).

The cost for the trip is based on quotes received in November, 2021. The final cost of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with the best arrangements we can make with the airlines and any savings we might enjoy or increases we might have to endure.

Please be aware that, in accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing most of the leader’s costs. Any unspent funds will be refunded to all participants. The trip fee also includes an AMC overhead charge to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel trips.

**Price does not include:**
Round Trip Airfare to Munich, Germany - estimated at $900. The leader will provide assistance in purchasing airfares at the most advantageous price.
Chartered bus to the first hotel at Lech Am Arlberg – 40 Euros in 2021.
Chartered bus away from the last hotel at Füssen – 40 Euros in 2021.
Lunches. It will be possible to buy food in all the villages/towns where we stay.
Evening meal Day 8, 9 and 10 when the hotel only provides bed & breakfast.
Personal expenses including drinks at the hotel.
Entrance fees – Neuschwanstein castle will cost about 12€ per person.
Trip insurance other than evacuation insurance

**Price includes:**
All accommodation and meals as detailed above
Excellent guide for the whole trip
All baggage transfers between hotels
Evacuation insurance

**Application Process**

If you would like to go on this trip, complete the application which can be found at the end of this prospectus and mail a check for $900 made out to the Appalachian Mountain Club to:

Carl Rosenthal, 58 Overlook Drive, Center Conway, NH 03813
The balance of $1,840 is due by May 27, 2023.

When registration is complete, the trip leader will send all participants the names, addresses and phone numbers of those going on the trip. Email will be the primary source of communication.

**Terms, Conditions and General Information**

Please carefully read the [Adventure Travel Standard Terms and Conditions](#). For our trip, the minimum cancellation fee referred to at the link above is $100.

**Trip Leadership**

**Trip Leader – Carl Rosenthal**

Carl has been a member of the AMC since 1984 and has led numerous day and weekend hiking trips. He began leading Adventure Travel trips in 2000. He has led or co-led Adventure Travel trips to the Sierras in California (3), Glacier National Park, the American Southwest (3), Washington state (2), Alaska (2), Big Bend and Guadalupe Peaks (2), New Mexico (4), Ecuador, Peru (3), Colorado (6), Death Valley (2), the Tetons, Oregon, Yellowstone, Patagonia, the Dolomites of Italy, Bulgaria, New Zealand, Taiwan, the Central Pyrenees (2), the Eastern Pyrenees, Greece, the Canadian Rockies (5), Poland/Slovakia, Norway, Austria(2), Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon. He is a Past Chair of the Connecticut Chapter. He has completed the SOLO basic First Aid Course and the Heart Saver CPR Course. He has been a hike leader at August Camp and an instructor at the AMC-ADK Winter School. He was a participant in Major Excursions to Austria and parts of the former Soviet Union. Carl has hiked the 115 Northeast 4,000 footers in winter and has stood on the highest points in the contiguous 48 states.

Address 58 Overlook Drive Center Conway, NH 03813
Phone 603-447-1858
Email address crosenthal789@msn.com

**Guide - Malcolm**

Originally from England, Malcolm has lived in the Pyrenees over 20 years. He is a UK Certified Mountain Leader who has been leading groups in the Pyrenees since 1994 and delights in showing people the area that he loves. Malcolm speaks fluent French, and has an insider’s knowledge of the best hikes, local flora and fauna, and area history and customs. He will join us
at Lech Am Arlberg on day one and stay with us until after breakfast on day thirteen. This will be the fifth time that Malcolm has guided this trip.

**GEAR LIST**

Here is a list of what to bring to have a good time on the trip.

- Day Pack with rain cover, large enough to carry what is needed for your safety and convenience
- Personal first aid
- Rain gear (both jacket and pants)
- 2 water bottles
- Wool or pile hat or balaclava
- Wool or pile gloves or mitts
- Extra pile or wool layer for warmth
- Comfortable hiking boots and socks
- Hiking shorts
- Long sleeve synthetic shirt
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Sun protection lotion
- Lip protection balm
- Leisure clothes for sightseeing and restaurants (moderate amount)
- Personal toiletries
- Tevas, sandals or sneakers
- Head lamp with extra batteries
- Insect repellant

**Optional recommendations:**
- Ear plugs
- Bathing suit
- Small knife
- Compass
- Extra shoelace
- Reading material for breaks in the action

I recommend hiking with a pole or poles, but if you don’t like them, that’s fine.

**The Trip Application is on the following page.**
Application for Hiking Austria’s Lechweg

Please print everything legibly

Name: ___________________________________ AMC Member? ______________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________

Phones: Daytime: _____________ Evening: _____________ Cell: _____________

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy): ___________ Gender: _________________ Smoker? _____

Email Address: ___________________________________

Health or disabilities: (Please note any medical or physical restrictions) ________________

Name, address, and phone number of person to contact in case of emergency:
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Have you done mountain hiking previously? When and how often?
________________________________________________________________________

Please print a brief summary of your recent hiking/backpacking experience on the back of this application.
________________________________________________________________________

How would you describe your physical condition and stamina? ____________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please print a description of how you maintain your physical condition on the back of this application. For example, I run 5 miles four times a week.

Have you gone on other AMC Adventure Travel trips? _____ If so, who were the leaders?
________________________________________________________________________

If this trip is filled, do you wish to be placed on a waiting list? ________________