# MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR FROM HIRSCHEGG TO THE SCHWARZWASSERTAL VALLEY



MEDIUM MOUNTAINBIKE



# **TOUR DESCRIPTION**

From the starting point of this mountain bike tour at the Walserhaus in Hirschegg, first follow the main road towards Mittelberg. After about one kilometer, turn right onto Rohrweg, which leads past the reservoir and up a steep incline to the Parsennbahn mountain station. From there, take Schwarzwassertalstraße to the Auenhütte at the Ifenbahn valley station. From here, stay on the hiking trail, past the Herzsee lake, and just before the Melköde plain opens up, keep right to the Alpe Melköde. The Alpe Melköde, which is open to the public, is a great place to take a break before heading back down the valley, first on the familiar route and then keeping right at the fork before the Herzsee lake, back to the starting point of the tour.

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION**

From the Walserhaus in Hirschegg, the route leads along the Walserstraße towards Mittelberg. After about one kilometer, we turn right into the Rohrweg, which leads us past the reservoir to the top station of the Parsennbahn. Follow the Schwarzwassertalstraße to the Auenhütte at the valley station of the Ifen lift and further towards Melköde. The view of the beautifully situated Herzsee will soon open up. The further route leads us through the wild and romantic nature reserve Rüche. On both sides of the path there are huge boulders in a tangled mess - witnesses of a huge rock fall that went down centuries ago. The highest point is reached at the left-hand shrine and we continue on the path on the right to the Alpe Melköde, whose ancient settlement was inhabited all year round according to documents in 1612. The Alpe was recognized as a gourmet hut. The way back is to Herzsee. There we choose the right path and get back to the Schwarzwassertalstraße and the same route as on the way back over the Heuberg to Hirschegg.

#### **RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT**

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

140 Alpine Emergencies Austria wide

144 Alpine Emergencies Vorarlberg

112 Euro-Emergencies (works with every mobile network)

www.vorarlberg.travel/sicherheitstipps

Solid footwear. Weatherproof clothing is recommended. Something to drink!

#### **FURTHER INFO & LINKS**

The mountain bike tour passes the Rohrweg nature discovery area. These nature discovery areas are popular rest stops on the Kleinwalsertal hiking trail network. The beautifully situated natural Kneipp area on the Rohrweg invites you to take a break with its gravel water treading pool and a rest area with comfortable wooden loungers.

# **Further links**



# How do you consciously experience nature?

Nature is so much more than the backdrop for unforgettable mountain experiences. It is a habitat for animals and plants. It provides drinking water and supplies us with high quality food. Not only does it provide valuable raw materials such as wood, it also protects against avalanches and mudslides and regulates the climate. It is up to us to support nature in everything that it does for us. One thing is certain, together we can achieve more:

Smart in NATURE CONSCIOUS together EXPERIENCE foresight

Smart in NATURE

Take a deep breath and recharge your batteries, be outside and feel free. When we enjoy nature, we are guests in the living room of shy animals and rare plants. If you behave smart, they will be happy to share their living space with you in the future too.

#### Stay on paths and marked routes

If you follow the marked paths and routes, you are sure to come to new favorite places. In this way you also respect protected areas, because many animals and plants need special protection. Especially in winter, any disturbance unnecessarily costs the wild animals the strength they need to survive.

#### Avoiding twilight times

Standing on a mountain at sunrise is a special experience. The morning and evening hours are also the time when most wild animals are in search of food. If they are disturbed, they get stressed. If it cannot be avoided, please stay on the marked path, do not use a bright headlamp and enjoy the silence.

#### Stay clean & take rubbish with you

It goes without saying: You take rubbish with you again, on the mountain and in the valley. Please also organic waste, because it is composted much more slowly at altitude. You can dispose of the rubbish properly at home or in your accommodation - please remember that there are no rubbish bins in public spaces in Kleinwalsertal.

#### On the natural toilet

If you are looking for a quiet place, please be at least 50 m away from water. Bury excrement or cover it with a large stone. Use fallen leaves or recycled toilet paper and put the paper back in the trash bag.

#### On tour with a dog

Are you always in control of your four-legged partner, even if he gets his nose for marmots, deer or other wild animals? You are both on the safe side on a leash. Keep dogs on a short leash near grazing cattle. If an attack by a grazing animal is foreseeable: leash off immediately. There are numerous dog stations in the valley for the disposal of dog bags. The farmers and alpine farmers thank you because manure in meadows and fields contaminates the feed and makes grazing cattle sick.

# **CONSCIOUS** to each other

### Consideration for other athletes and those looking for relaxation

Everyone loves to enjoy a special piece of earth for themselves. But most of the time we are not traveling alone. No problem, because there is enough space. Allow time, open the way in an accommodating manner, provide support when someone needs help and always give a smile. So nothing stands in the way of friendly cooperation and relaxed enjoyment of nature.

# Appreciating the preservation of the cultural landscape

Alpine landscapes are touching with their contrast: Imposing peaks and natural forests alternate with gentle valleys, well-tended meadows and pastures. In the Kleinwalsertal too, this delightful landscape at three altitudes is no coincidence, but the result of an interplay of natural and cultural landscapes. Behind this is the work of farmers, alpine and forestry as well as hunters. With their work, they ensure that the attractiveness of the recreation and leisure area and the diversity of species are preserved. We already say thank you if we stay on the marked trails and enjoy regional products.

#### **EXPERIENCE** farsighted

# Safe on tour - for you and others

Whether on a ski or snowshoe tour in winter or on a mountain tour in summer, anyone who is out and about in alpine terrain has to be well prepared. This includes careful information and tour planning as well as the right equipment. Correctly assessing alpine dangers requires a lot of knowledge and experience. Why not learn from professionals and go on tour with one of the experienced guides?

Nature experience map, scale 1:12,000; Kleinwalsertal tour map (with hiking guide), scale 1:25,000; DAV hiking map, scale 1:25,000; the respective cards are available for a fee in the Walserhaus Hirschegg.

Morning 6 °C MOUNTAIN

13 °C VALLEY

Noon

5 °C MOUNTAIN 15 °C Evening 5 °C MOUNTAIN

13 °C VALLEY