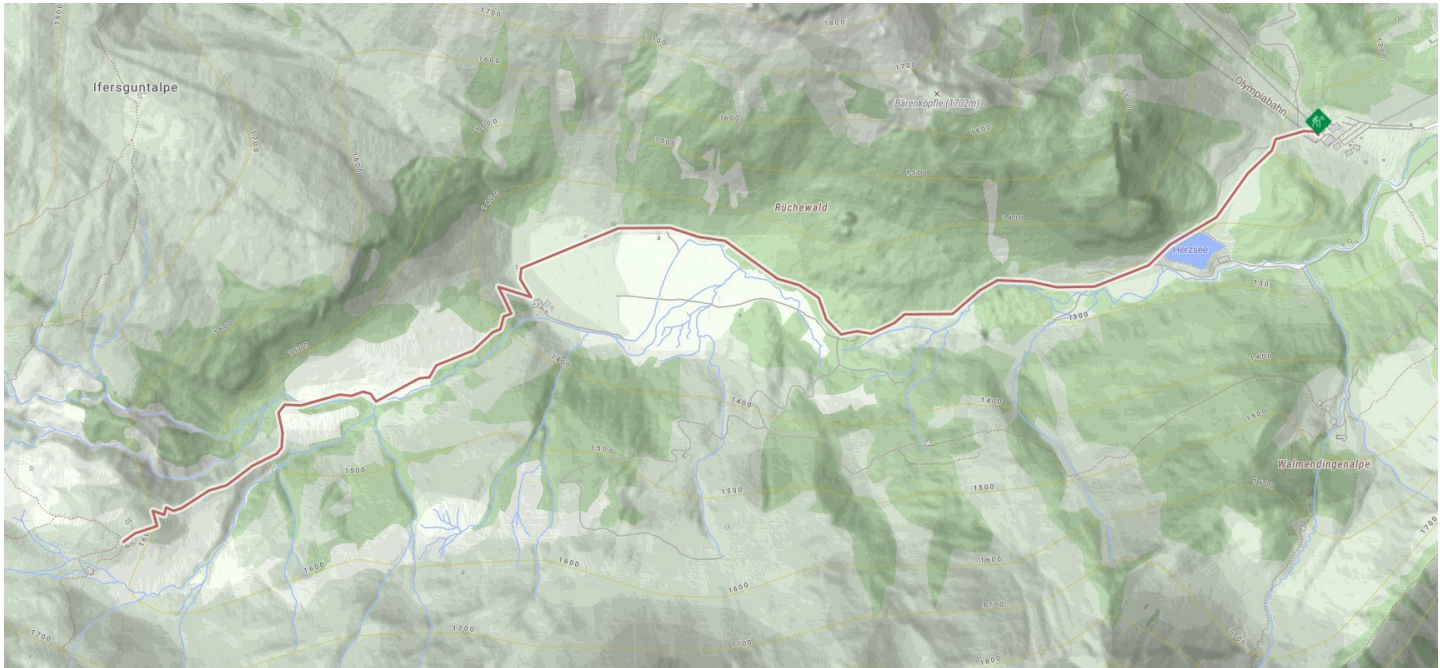


MEDIUM HIKING



## TOUR DESCRIPTION

This hike leads from the Auenhütte via the Melköde to the Schwarzwasserhütte. The Schwarzwassertal is a geologically and botanically fascinating side valley of the Kleinwalsertal and a refuge for many animal species. From the Auenhütte at the valley station of the Ifenbahn cable car, the hike leads past the Herzsee lake on a gently ascending trail along the Schwarzwasserbach stream to the head of the Schwarzwassertal valley in about an hour. There you will find the Alpe Melköde, which is open in summer. From here, the trail climbs somewhat more steeply to the Schwarzwasserhütte hut through a botanically interesting high moor. The Hohen Ifen in the north, the Steinmandl and Grünhorn in the west and the Ochsenhofer Köpfe in the south are always in view. The return to the valley follows the same route.

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

From the Auenhütte at the valley station of the Ifen chairlift passing through Wildmoos. The view opens up to the beautifully situated Herzsee. A short detour around the lake with great views of the Schwarzwassertal is worthwhile. We come down from the lake where we encounter the path to Melköde. The further trail leads us through the wild-romantic natural reserve Rüche. On both sides of the trail gigantic rocks are lying about – testimonies of a rockfall occurred centuries ago.

At the wayside shrine on the left you have reached the top. Continuing on the trail rightside of the wide plateau we hike to the Alpe Melköde, whose ancient settlements have been inhabited since 1612 throughout the year, according to the records. Our way takes us further up a fairly steep hillside and passes over into a swampy high plateau. Please stay on the built trail. Afterwards we are taken up to the Schwarzwasserhütte. Return on the same way as before.

## RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

**EMERGENCY:** 140 Alpine Emergencies Austria wide 144 Alpine Emergencies Vorarlberg 112 Euro-Emergencies (works with every mobile network) [www.vorarlberg.travel/sicherheitstipps](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/sicherheitstipps) Sturdy footwear. Hiking poles recommended for steeper sections.

## FURTHER INFO & LINKS

### 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:

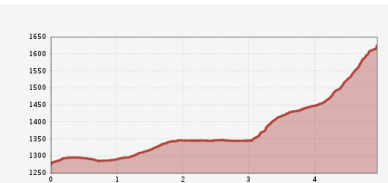
**Smart in NATURE**

↔ Distance  
**4.95 KM**

⌚ Duration  
**3:15 H**

⚡ Altitude meters  
**350 M**

⚡ Highest point  
**1625 M**



### Condition



### Best season

JAN FEB MAR APR **MAI** **JUN**  
**JUL** **AUG** **SEP** **OCT** **NOV** DEC

**Sart:** Hirschegg

**Goal:** Hirschegg

**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**  
**VALLEY**

Evening **5 °C**  
**MOUNTAIN**  
 **13 °C**  
**VALLEY**