

NICS RAMBLERS - 2027 HOLIDAY

Austria (Zell am See) – early September 2027

Please consider if you are interested to go. Based on the level of interest, arrangements will be put in place much later this year, with deposits then paid to guarantee places – so complete the questionnaire at the end and return to me by email.

I recognise this is nearly 18 months away, but our last trip to Austria (St Johann in Tirol – 2017) had to be booked nearly 12 months in advance to get places.

Initial Background

This is almost certain to be the 2027 foreign trip given the interest already expressed by a number of members. The trip is highly likely to be first week of September when the weather should be very pleasant and the cable cars/chair lifts are operational. This will be a walking holiday, with equal emphasis on both elements for those wishing to walk and/or holiday. For those wanting more of a holiday, this is a very nice location, with three days trips included in the package. It is quite near Salzburg and Kitzbuhel. We will be staying in a large valley, surrounded by mountainous terrain and doing a mixture of mainly self-guided walks on well mapped trails. Ski/Chair lifts will be used on occasions to reach higher trails, for contour type walking. Mountain huts/cafes/schnapps wells abound, so coffee/tea/beer/schapps stops anticipated at ‘elevenses’, ‘twelveses’ and ‘threeses’ etc. The holiday will be with a normal holiday package company and most of us will fly from Dublin. The Hotel will be half board, so eating in the evenings is not complicated (i.e. ‘herding of cats’). If numbers are high, we may need to split between two hotels – that said, the quicker we book, the more likely we stay together in one of the hotel’s that Topflight (Ireland) use. We will be staying in a relatively small town (population around 10,000), so should we need to be apart, any other hotel used should be fairly close to the preferred Topflight hotel. Those wishing to share will need to confirm who they wish to share with at time of booking. If there is a possibility to stay on for 3 more nights in Munich, this will be explored – that may need a separate flight booked by yourself.

When

Either the first or second week of September 2027 (Sunday to Sunday) – when the weather is quite good for the Alps in this area (the Zell am See area) - [Zell am See Weather in September: Temperature, Rainfall, & More](#) . Evenings though will be cool – this is not the Mediterranean.

Where to

We are going to **Zell am See**, Austria. We fly to Munich, so you will be pleased to know Ryanair will not be used. Zell am See is about 2 hour 30 minutes (130 miles) from Munich. This possibly opens up an opportunity to spend some days and nights in Munich?





Travel

This is a package holiday with Topflight (Ireland) - see link for their 2026 holidays (2027 isn't out yet) [Holidays Search-2 Adults travelling to Zell am See around 6th Sep 2026](#) . Most of us will travel from Dublin. Arrangements for our England based members will be confirmed later – hopefully just a pickup and drop off at Munich Airport with the rest of the group OR to book a package from London with Inghams. [Search Results | Inghams Walking Holidays](#) . Using a package holiday will ensure coach transfers are in place; we have access to a representative; and flights are in place – and the price overall for half board at a 3 or 4-star hotel is reasonable. There are also 3 free coach trips for those wanting more of a holiday.

How will this holiday be booked?

Hayes Travel (Carrickfergus) will probably co-ordinate through me. It is important some central booking arrangements are in place.

Hotel with Topflight (Ireland) Holidays

Topflight is a relatively small company, but it does offer a small number of hotels in Zell am See – we don't need to overthink which hotel is best. The local hotels' Topflight use, get good reviews and Topflight would seem to have a good and longstanding business and customer relationships in place.

We will be staying in Zell am See, for example in the Hotel Lebzelter (3 star plus) – the Hotel's own website is at [Hotel Lebzelter | Vacation in the heart of Zell am See](#) and the Trip Advisor review can be found at [Trip Advisor - Hotel Lebzelter - Zell am See, Austria](#) . The very approximate price will be around €1,465 (£1,250) all in, if sharing and about €1,750 (£1,500) if not sharing – prices for next year are not yet confirmed. In today's money, that is about 20% more expensive than the 2017 Austrian trip – and we all know that holiday prices have gone up at least by that. Booking flights and hotels ourselves (i.e. not through an agent) and arranging transfers would cost at least £1,150. For half board and the tours, Topflight is a reasonable price. A similar Ramblers Holiday to Zell am See Austria is from £1,800 (and no tours).

These prices are half-board and we will be flying with Topflight (Ireland) from Dublin – see their web-page [Holidays Search-2 Adults travelling to Zell am See around 6th Sep 2026](#). As a group it is not practical to not have half board; it can be very difficult getting everyone to agree a place to eat in; and to ensure any likely place can actually cope well with a potentially large group. The 3 star plus hotel seems to have a good reputation.

Austrian twin beds are a little like double beds – same bed frame, separate mattresses. So if you are sharing with a friend, this is the basis. They do not have separate single beds in a room. The photos on the websites for these hotels', show that the beds are large, so people sharing a bed (with two mattresses) may feel comfortable enough to do so. This is a decision for you to make!

Walking and day trips – trails will be well marked and we will mainly self-guided – although we may be able to join a guided walk most days, should we wish – at the Zell am See Tourist Office (although as a group we would need to request permission in advance). Examples of walks attached – [Hiking and mountaineering in Zell am See-Kaprun](#) - don't worry, we will not all do the long ones, but some might!

There will be lots of easier walks to do and if you wish, you can easily travel to Kitzbuhel (only 50 minutes away by train), or travel to other local towns/areas for the day. For those wanting more of a holiday, our package includes three separate day trips by coach to Salzberg, to Grossglockner and to Hohenwerfen Castle. See Annex A for details of these trips. The website for trains and buses is attached <http://fahrplan.oebb.at/bin/query.exe/en?>

The local tourist board (for Zell am See) website is at [Holidays in Zell am See-Kaprun | Salzburger Land](#) . Note we are only 50 minutes away by train (almost every hour) from Kitzbuhel, another place worth visiting. My understanding is that the hotel gives us for free the Zell am See Alpen Sommer Card to use trains, buses, and most chair and ski lifts. The lifts will be a nice way up and down mountains. Details of this card are attached [The Zell am See-Kaprun Summer Card](#) .

The Zell am See Tourist Office will be able to give further information on the huge range of walks in this area – and it may run free guided walks for tourists.

Examples of day trips – see Annex A below for the three free trips included in our package.

Additional nights

I will enquire whether additional nights are possible (e.g. in Munich) – at the moment assume it will be 7 nights in Austria.

What now?

Without delay, IF YOU ARE JUST INTERESTED AT THIS TIME, complete the question below and return to me (I would like these returned by no later than 30th April). Nothing further is needed at this time.

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	Yes/No/comments
I am interested in this walking holiday	
First week of September 2027 is OK for me	
Second week of September 2027 is OK for me	
I wish to have a single room	
I would prefer to share (note that sharing means twin mattresses that share a bed frame)	
I will share with	
I accept this holiday is on a half board basis	
I will travel from Dublin (Topflight)	
I would prefer to travel from England to Munich & vv	
I would like to stay on for 3 more nights before flying home e.g. Munich	
I am happy to assist leading a walk	
My full name is:	
My address is:	
My passport nationality for this trip is:	

Happy rambling

Michael Carson Email - *****

Annex A – Day trips included as part of your holiday package – so a holiday for those less inclined to walk....

Day 3 - Hohenwerfen Castle

This morning, we leave Zell am See, following the scenic shores of Lake Zell before passing through the charming village of Schüttdorf. As we journey downstream along the Salzach River, today's excursion blends the raw beauty of natural wonders with the grandeur of a medieval masterpiece.

Our route takes us through three breathtaking regions of the Salzburg province—the picturesque Unterpinzgau (Lower Pinzgau), Pongau, and Tennengau. Along the way, we witness the sheer power of nature at work, where the Großarler Ache has carved a spectacular 4km-long gorge south of St. Johann im Pongau, shaping the landscape over centuries with its relentless force.

We then continue to the village of Werfen, where the mighty Hohenwerfen Castle dominates the skyline. Perched high above the valley, the fortress is accessible via a 20-minute scenic walk, or for those who prefer, a convenient elevator ride to the top. Once inside, take a moment to soak in the breathtaking views before enjoying lunch within the castle's historic walls.

After lunch, a guided tour offers fascinating insights into the castle's rich and storied past, bringing its medieval history to life. To complete the experience, witness a spectacular falconry show, a tradition that has been part of the castle's heritage for centuries, making this a truly unforgettable day of culture, history and natural beauty.

Day 5 - Grossglockner

This morning, we depart Zell am See for a scenic drive along Lake Zell, heading towards the Grossglockner High Alpine Road — one of Austria's most breathtaking mountain routes. Stretching through the Central Alps, this masterpiece of engineering connects the provinces of Salzburg and Carinthia and is only open for scenic traffic during the summer months.

The road winds its way up through two dramatic passes - Fuscher Törl (2,428m) and Hochtörl (2,504m), before branching off onto the Glacier Road, leading to Austria's largest valley glacier, the Pasterze. Along the journey, you'll be treated to spectacular views of rugged peaks, deep valleys, and alpine meadows, with Austria's highest mountain, the Grossglockner (3,798m), making its most striking appearance in the final stretch of the Glacier Road.

At the southern end of the route, we stop in the picturesque village of Heiligenblut, famous for its charming Gothic church and dramatic mountain backdrop. After taking in the scenery and enjoying some free time, we retrace our route back, offering a fresh perspective on this legendary alpine road.

Day 6 - Salzburg

After breakfast, you will be picked up by coach to the enchanting city of Salzburg, home of world famous composer Mozart and the Von Trapp family from the Sound of Music. Meaning "Salt Castle", the name refers to its massive fortress and the white gold from the mountains in the South. This is Austria's most beautiful spot - as the locals will arguably claim.

The city's magnificent Baroque town centre is rated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site and can easily be explored by foot. On arrival, the city will be yours to discover at your own pace or, if you wish, you can book an optional city tour, which is accompanied by a local city guide. Your coach guide will provide full information on this. Later, you will return to the hotel by coach.

Annex B

Using the bus – see details below:

With the free bus pass issued by the hotel, we can visit many local villages, including Kaprun with its really good hiking trails. See attached: [Hiking in Kaprun | Pinzgauer Grasberge & Hohe Tauern](#) .

Details of the summer card that hotel guests receive are attached [The Zell am See-Kaprun Summer Card](#) . It seems that all public transport in the wider Salzburg Region is also included by way of a transport pass (The Guest Mobility Ticket) also issued by the hotel

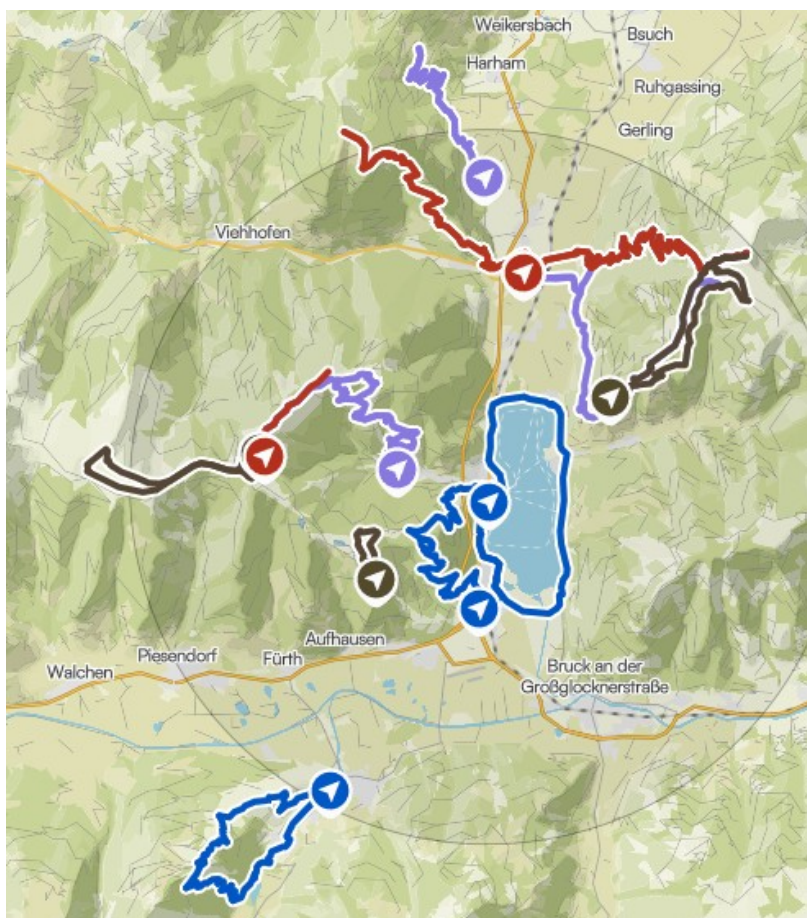
<https://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com/en/sustainability/mobility/guest-mobility-ticket> .

The bus service used in the area is the ÖBB Postbus. Timetables (buses and trains) can be found at the following website: <http://www.oebb.at/> . Bus times can also be found at <http://fahrplan.vvt.at>

There is an excellent link that can be used as a route planner for one specific journey or if you select timetable booklet on the task bar along the top of the page, you can create a printable PDF with the timetables that you want to have at hand: http://fahrplan.oebb.at/bin/query.exe/en?L=vs_postbus

Annex C

Komott App – an example of walks beside Zell am See



There are also excellent walks from the nearby village of Kaprun – 19 minutes away by bus.