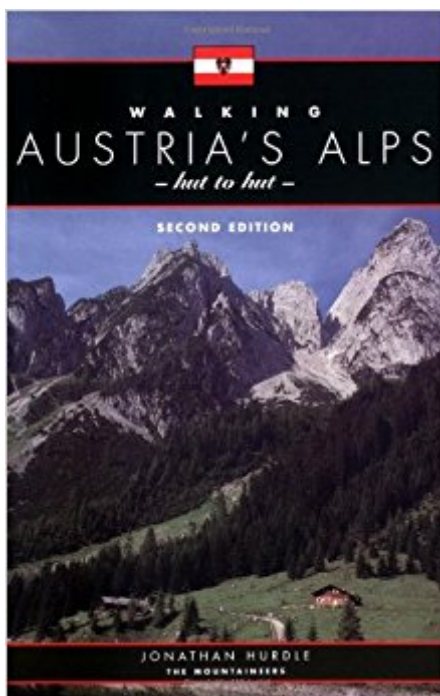


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# Walking Austria's Alps: Hut To Hut 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

\* The ultimate vacation for more adventurous European travelers\* Tours range between four and 11 days, and no camping equipment is required\*Tours are easily accessible to towns, villages and roads This is the Austria travelers dream about. Dramatic alpine peaks, secluded valleys, tiny mountain villages, authentic and hearty cuisine, and plenty of opportunities to meet the local people. But this Austria is not to be found on the highways or in the cities; this Austria is found on foot, traveling the vast network of accessible trails and exploring the riches of this country's excellent hut system.Walking Austria's Alps offers eleven treks, ranging from four to eleven days in length, which include nightly stops at a mountain hut where walkers can eat well and sleep in comfort. No technical climbing skills or equipment are necessary, just strong legs and sturdy shoes. The daily itineraries allow plenty of time for interesting detours, climbs on nearby peaks, or simply sitting to admire the scenery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Unlike some guides to hiking in the Alps, [this book] gives the kind of advice and lore that mountain walkers can appreciate. (The New York Times)If you haven't experienced the enjoyment of hut-to-hut, then this is a must read. And even if you're an old trekking hound, this book will prove an invaluable resource. (Adventure Travel)

Jonathan Hurdle, a Londoner now living in New York City, has led hiking expeditions to the Austrian and Swiss Alps for more than 20 years.

I purchased this book for planning a hut-to-hut hiking trip in Austria. I have several of the Cicerone guides, which are good, but somehow still lacking. (The authors are British and probably written in a manner that the Brits are accustomed to.) I was a member of the Seattle Mountaineers for 30 years and very frequently (like, on a weekly basis) used their guide books for Washington State hikes and climbs. This particular book is published by the Mountaineers and is written in the same style of my Washington State books, just a bit easier for me to understand and digest. There are a number of various hut-to-hut hikes described in this book in enough detail that I could choose trips suitable to my skill level and discard others that were probably too difficult for me. This book is more of a sampler than a comprehensive guide to Austrian 'hütten leben', but should be considered when planning a trip.

Details of eleven multi-day hut to hut treks in Austria, covering all the best areas.

Excellent book especially for beginners. Gives you all the information you need. Very detailed in all of its 11 walks described. Could start the walks immediately with the information provided. Tells you all about equipment required, the huts to stay in, maps required degree of difficulty. Each walk is detailed on a day-to-day basis. Fantastic.

Needs an update. The maps are not very useful.

I bought a couple Alpine hiking guides, but this was the best one and the one I take with me when I go out. Definitely by this guide if you are planning a hut hike in Austria.

If you are planning a trip to Austria and plan on using this book as a guide be warned!!! I am planning a 7 day hut to hut and upon reading the section of the book that covers the route I am taking and comparing it to up to date websites I found the the book is far too outdated. This is a major concern as it does not have accurate details on how to book or even the correct operational huts. Be warned!!! Use the internet to your advantage and don't waste your money on this publication

should not sell this book. I strongly recommend that readers should not use this book as a guide, for the reasons described below. I purchased this book several years ago and since have been planning

a trip to Austria to do several of the hikes. I just returned from said trip. I completed the Karwendal tour this past week. This tour is described as a beginner hike, for those with only a modest bit of hiking or walking experience. I had this hike planned as a warm up. After which I intended to do another of the hikes, in the Zillertal region. I found the trail descriptions in the book to be grossly inaccurate, and to highly understate the actual conditions I found underfoot. There were numerous sections of steep scree fields, exposed cliff and ridge walks, and precipitous cabled ascents and descents, some sections of scrambling, and steep slopes covered in loose gravel. Needless to say, these conditions were certainly not for beginners. Throughout the book, the author makes reference to "nur für die Gestube" signage to be found on the trail. This term means "only for the experienced". Sections of trail will be signed "nur für die gestube", when the DAV or OEAV intended it to be attempted only by experienced "climbers", not walkers. These sections of trail will be marked as "steig" (climb) as indicated by black dotted lines on a AV map, or "klettersteig" (ladder climb) as marked by red dotted lines on an Alpenverin (AV) map. These sections are not hiking trails in any but the most extreme sense. In particular, steig or certainly Klettersteig should only be attempted by fit individuals with some climbing training, a harness and a helmet. An ice ax to arrest a slide could also be usefull if there is any ice, or the potential for ice. The author downplays the danger and exposure associated with these sections of trail, which is, in my opinion, reckless and cavalier. The descriptions to be found in the book do not describe the conditions to be found, either for the "nur für die gestube" sections or the sections without such signage. In addition, many sections or trail with significant exposure are unmarked, and are not described as containing cables, steep slopes or risk of injury in the text of the guide. These sections will come as a nasty surprise to those expecting the conditions described in the text and pictures. In one case I found myself literally climbing up a 75-80% incline, hand over foot, to the top of what turned out to be a knife edge ridge, with a sheer drop on the other side. In another situation, the trail called for descending down a 75-80% incline of solid rock, backwards, relying on a steel cable. In several cases, I followed a narrow trail along high, steep cliff sides, aided by steel cables laid into the rock. In the latter case, I was lucky to cross these exposed sections before a electrical storm came up. In addition, the hiking times stated in the text are often not realistic, particularly the descent times. I purchased the exact Alpenvereinkarte and have a good deal of hiking nad some climbing/scrambling experience in the states, having completed the Mount Whitney day hike and several other long distance back country hikes. This fact should sum up my experience. I encountered four other hikers on the trail, all of which came to the Karwendal based on this guidebook, and its promise of beginner conditions. I was the only one to finish the tour, the other four turned back early due to the hazardous conditions. All of us were

highly dissatisfied with this guide. In fact, the locals who were amongst us on this trek got a good laugh out of the description of this hike as a beginner's hike. It certainly should not be attempted by anyone who is not fit, or without significant experience high in the mountains, or with any fear of heights.

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