



ABOUT THE TRAIL

- **DISTANCE** 85.6 km (53.2 mi)
- **DURATION** 6 to 8 days
- **TOTAL ELEVATION GAIN** 6,650 m (21,818 ft)
- **LEVEL** Challenging

The Zillertal Alps have everything that the mountain wanderer could possibly crave, from high, craggy, glaciated peaks to wooded valleys, an excellent network of huts up high, and villages with every amenity down low. But, while popular, this corner of the Alps on the border between Austria and Italy isn’t as popular as the honeypot areas of Switzerland and France. It lacks mountains of global fame like Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn to draw in the tourist crowds, and yet this landscape is home to a multiday hut tour that has the hallmarks of a true Alpine classic.

This high-level trail is simple on the map and conceptually elegant, linking two locations in a sweeping arc: the small town of Mayrhofen, nestled in the bottom of the Zillertal Valley itself; and the Berliner Hut, a celebrated and historic mountain refuge—the oldest in the Zillertal Alps. Between these two points, the Berliner Höhenweg aims simply to keep to the mountainous high ground as much as possible, threading an often challenging route between huts and high passes with balcony views down onto the tributary valleys of the Zillertal below. The result is one of the best compact multiday hikes in the Austrian Alps.

Starting from the village of Finkenberg near Mayrhofen, the trail begins by climbing steeply uphill to the Gams Hut. There are many switchbacks through the forest before eventually breaking out above the tree line near the hut itself, which is situated at 1,921 m (6,302 ft). After 1,080 m (3,543 ft) of climbing to the first hut, many hikers will choose to stop here over-night—it is another 15 km (9.3 mi) and 1,130 m (3,707 ft) of ascent to the next potential roof over your head. The views from this point are already spectacular. There is a broad panorama looking south into the Zillertal Alps and directly along the deep valley of Floitengrund to the glaciers on the frontier ridge.

From the Gams Hut, the trail heads southwest, keeping some distance above the Zemmtal Valley. This traverse is rugged and difficult in places but



↖ The impressive headwall of the Stilluptal on the way from the Greizer Hut to the Kasseler Hut.  
↑ The Berliner Hut: one of the most celebrated and historic refuges in the Alps.