



CLASSIC  
EDELWEISS TOURS

## TOURING CENTER ALPS

“ Our Austrian Alps Touring Center is a hassle-free motorcycle tour. Bring your family! ”

## RIDING DAY 1 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - SEEFELD IN TIROL

### Standard Route (240 km / 149 miles)

Tyrol and neighboring Bavaria both offer gorgeous scenery, there is so much to discover. The contrast of the green valley and the rough mountains accompany us through the Leutasch Valley towards Mittenwald. As we leave the Alps, the roads lead around and over hills, and through small towns where we see typical mural paintings on the houses.

In charming villages we find blue and white colored posts, usually located at the market square. Take the time to stop and try to find out the meaning of these posts. We pass by lakes, remnants of the Ice Age which was apparent in this area about 15,000 years ago. The Kesselberg between Walchensee and Kochel used to be a place for road races many years ago. Continuing through the lovely Bavarian countryside we can visit a world famous castle - Linderhof - before we return to Austria.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Ettal Monastery



The baroque Ettal Monastery was founded in 1330 by Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian and is today a popular tourist destination. The Benedictine monastery includes agricultural operations, several inns as well as a high school with an attached boarding school, an art publishing house, a distillery for the production of the monastery liqueur and a brewery. The famous Ettal Madonna - a picture of the Virgin Mary brought from Pisa - became the destination of pilgrimages, especially since the Baroque reconstruction of the monastery. The monastery church is consecrated to St. Mary: St. Mary's Assumption. The majestic dome of the Ettal Basilica, the heart of the monastery, rises in front of the cliffs of the Alps, which jut out of the mountain forest. Even the first Gothic building of the church was erected in such a way that the enormous dome, as a symbol of the sanctuary of "our dear Lady Foundress" visible from afar, left an unmistakable mark on the then still so lonely mountain valley. The monastery, which was built in the 18th century and extensively renovated in the 20th century, was built around the church. Thus it is already architecturally visible that the service is the center of monastic life. ([www.kloster-ettal.de](http://www.kloster-ettal.de))



## #2: Castle Linderhof



The only castle built by King Ludwig II that was finished during his lifetime. Also his favorite place and situated in a beautifully landscaped garden. It is located in one of the valleys where the Bavarian kings used to hunt. Built between 1869 and 1879, it resembles a French palace. The King's soft spot for the German composer Richard Wagner was expressed in the building called the Grotto, which

interprets a scene from the opera Tannhäuser.

## #3: Hahntennjoch (1894m)



The Hahntennjoch, well known among motorcyclists, is still an important connecting road between the Upper Inn Valley and the neighboring Tyrolean Lech Valley. The winding and narrow road stretches over 29 kilometers with a gradient of almost 20% and can only be used from May to

October. It reaches its highest point at 1894 meters. Beware, there are often police checks here!

## Optional Route (245 km / 152 miles)

Instead of Linderhof this route leads us to the ultra-famous and mega-busy Neuschwanstein castle, King Ludwig's fantasy-come-true that draws two million visitors per year to this part of the country. Otherwise it's just as scenic as on the standard ride: lots of lush, green countryside, picturesque villages... oh, and let's not forget the Baroque treasure box church named Wieskirche, a pilgrimage site of outstanding beauty.

All in all a lovely, leisurely ride.

## Highlights:

## #1: Wieskirche (Church of Wies)



Known as 'Wies' for short, the Wieskirche is one of Bavaria's best-known baroque churches and a Unesco-listed heritage site. About a million visitors a year flock to see this decorated marvel, the monumental work of the legendary artist brothers, Dominikus and Johann Baptist Zimmermann. In 1730, a farmer in Steingaden, about 30 km northeast of Füssen, witnessed the miracle of his Christ statue shedding tears. Pilgrims poured into the town in such numbers over the next decade that the local abbot commissioned a new church to house the weepy work. Inside the almost circular structure, eight snow-white pillars are topped by gold capital stones and swirling decorations. The unsupported dome must have seemed like God's work in the mid-18th century, its surface adorned with a pastel ceiling fresco celebrating Christ's resurrection. ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))

## #2: Neuschwanstein Castle



King Ludwig II of Bavaria lived from 1845–1886. He is one of the tragic figures of Bavarian history. After his father died in 1864, Ludwig became king. His interest in art and the love of his country inspired the idea of a new and spectacular castle that would replace the ruins in front of the mountain called Schwanstein. In 1868 the plans were completed, in 1869 the construction started. The castle was finished in 1886. Its architecture perfectly matches the surreal dream world that King Ludwig had escaped to. He only lived here for 120 days. He then moved to Lake Starnberg where he drowned under mysterious circumstances (castle tour takes approx. 3 hours).

## RIDING DAY 2 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - SEEFELD IN TIROL

### Standard Route (135 km / 84 miles)

It's an easy day today! A short run takes us into Innsbruck. After exploring the old part of town with its wonderful typical Inn-Salzach architecture houses, having a look at the Golden Roof, and climbing the City Tower to get a glance of the surrounding scenery, we head with our motorcycles to the Northern part of town, to the Hungerburg.

An outstanding cable car ride takes us to the Seegrube, where we will have lunch surrounded by one of the most beautiful panoramas the area can offer. In the afternoon we go for a fun ride "just around the corner," into the Sellrain Valley.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Innsbruck



In 1180, the town in the center of the Alps derived this name from its position by a bridge over the River Inn ("Inn" = name of the river flowing by, "bruck" = old German word for bridge). Remnants show that Romans had been here about 15 BC. At this time, Innsbruck was one of the major transport centers from Germany in the north to Italy in the south. In medieval Tyrol, its capital Innsbruck, played an important role in Europe's history. The "Golden Roof" and

the houses of the very attractive historic center are witnesses of this era. Over the last several decades, Innsbruck gained fame by hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 1964 and 1976.



## #2: Kühtai (2017 m)



This is one of the many good motorcycle roads around the area of Innsbruck. It takes you up to 6,561 ft. above sea level and offers spectacular views of the Stubai Alps. The skiing area is well-known, but the name indicates that the area was and still is used to take the cattle to the alpine pastures during summer time. Watch out for their presence, and their "presents," on the road. Another interesting place to see here is the Kühtai power station.

Divided into two different stations, the upper one is located on 6,233 ft. above sea level. The second one lies approx. 270 ft. below the main plant. Electricity is transferred via power lines down to the valley and fed in the Austrian electricity network as well as into the Central European network.

## RIDING DAY 3 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - SEEFELD IN TIROL

### Standard Route (350 km / 217 miles)

Today's route leads us across the border to Italy, to South Tyrol. Most people here still speak German even though this part of the country has been a part of Italy since 1919. After a coffee stop in Glurns, Italy's smallest city, we set out to tackle world-famous Stelvio pass, the Queen of Alpine Roads. 48 switchbacks and breathtaking scenery will fill your day with action and make your body flush with adrenaline.

As we head down the other side of the pass we enter Switzerland. The region called Engadin has its own language, spoken by only about 15,000 people, and also its own style of architecture. It's an easy cruise back to Austria; time to relax and dream about this awesome mountain road.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Glorenza (Glurns)



With 924 inhabitants, Glurns is Italy's smallest city. Located on the old salt trade route, the town was very important during the 14th and 15th centuries. During the Engadin War between the Habsburg army and the Swiss farmers in 1499, the town was destroyed. The inhabitants rebuilt their hometown in the 16th century surrounding it with a new 10 m (30 ft.) high wall. It seems Glurns has been sleeping since that time and, hence, preserved its medieval character.

#### #2: Passo dello Stelvio (Stelvio Pass) (2758 m)



Planned in 1818, this pass road was built within 5 years (1820-1825) by about 2,000 workers. Because of the horse-drawn vehicles of the time, the gradient was limited to a maximum of 11%. At an altitude of 2,758 m (9,048 ft), Passo dello Stelvio is the highest pass in Italy and the second-highest paved pass of the Alps. With its 48 tight switchbacks on the northern side, it is a tourist attraction

famous all over Europe and a first-class attraction for European riders. You will love it, too!

## Optional Route (320 km / 199 miles)

Stelvio is a spectacular road and an amazing experience, but it is also a very challenging ride. If you don't feel like you're up to it or if the weather is not good enough we have this optional route in store for you. It takes you to South Tyrol and to Switzerland as well but it leaves out the most difficult part. Instead you can spend some extra time in Glurns or in Müstair, where an ancient Benedictine monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is worth a visit. A gorgeous day, even without Stelvio.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Glorenza (Glurns)



With 924 inhabitants, Glurns is Italy's smallest city. Located on the old salt trade route, the town was very important during the 14th and 15th centuries. During the Engadin War between the Habsburg army and the Swiss farmers in 1499, the town was destroyed. The inhabitants rebuilt their hometown in the 16th century surrounding it with a new 10 m (30 ft.) high wall. It seems Glurns has been sleeping since that time and, hence, preserved its medieval character.

#### #2: Müstair



Is a municipality in the district of Graubünden. The easternmost point of Switzerland at Piz Chavalatsch is located there. The town became famous for the monastery. The Convent of Saint John is an ancient Benedictine monastery and, by reason of its exceptionally well-preserved heritage of Carolingian art, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983. It is believed that the abbey was established in 780 by a bishop of Chur. It was converted into a nunnery in 1167. During the 20th-century restoration works, some Romanesque frescoes from the 1160s were discovered there. Other murals are dated to Charlemagne's reign. The UNESCO recognised these as "the most important cycle of paintings which is presently known dating from ca. 800.



## #3: Gacher Blick



Thousands of years ago, people were already coming to the Piller saddle and were captivated by the "sheer view" and the fascinating vista of the Upper Inn Valley. In those times, traveling across the Alps on those demanding paths was hard work, but for us motorcyclists today this road up to the Piller saddle means just great riding fun.

The word "gach" was generally used as a synonym for "sudden". Here, in the Tyrolean Uplands, it also is used to replace "fast" (meaning sudden), "sheer", or "steep". And here at this point, the cliff indeed shows a drop of approx. 800 m (2,600 ft.)

## RIDING DAY 4 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - SEEFELD IN TIROL

### Standard Route (253 km / 157 miles)

After a short westerly jaunt we turn south, entering the Ötztal. This road runs through pleasant pine woods among scatterings of debris brought down from the river. Chestnut trees and apricot orchards in the area of Ötz show that the Ötztal corridor running south attracts the warm wind, called Föhn.

Passing the ski resort of Sölden, we start to climb the end of the valley towards Timmelsjoch. Only open during the summertime, the pass offers spectacular views on both the Austrian and the Italian sides. On the steeper southern slope the road winds down, often cut out of the rock, into a scenic valley called Passeier Tal. From St. Leonhard, home of the Tyrolian freedom fighter Andreas Hofer, we start climbing the next spectacular pass road: Jaufenpass. Going back into Austria we take the same way the Romans took – the Brennerpass.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Passo del Rombo (Timmelsjoch) (2509 m)



Long before the road was completed in 1969, people used the Timmelsjoch to cross the mountain range known as the Ötztaler Alps. At 2,509 m (8,231 ft), it is the second-highest pass in the eastern Alps (after Stelvio) and covers a vertical distance of more than 1,800 m (6,000 ft). Especially the Italian (southern) side is quite spectacular to ride, the views are breathtaking. In 1991, Ötzi the Ice Man was found on a slope about 20 km (14 mi) from the top of the pass. In April

2016, Europe's highest motorcycle museum opened its doors to the public, displaying a collection of 190 vintage bikes. Unfortunately, it burned to the ground in January 2021 and all bikes were lost. What a pity! The owners, however, went out of their lines and built up a new museum, which has been opened up again for visitors in the autumn of 2021.

## #2: Vipiteno (Sterzing)



Sterzing (Vipiteno) is a historical town from the Middle Ages, with romantic little old streets, some souvenir shops, and several cafes. It is ideal for a little stop if you would like to get some souvenirs.



## RIDING DAY 5 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - SEEFELD IN TIROL

### Standard Route (219 km / 136 miles)

This route leads us into the Ziller Valley, one of the longest side valleys of the river Inn. A spectacular toll road, which is only open in summer, takes us above the tree line and offers outstanding vistas towards the glaciers of the Zillertaler Alps. The road was not built for tourism but as a construction road. As development in the valley progressed avalanches and rock falls posed an increasing threat to the people below; reinforcing the slopes became a top priority. Today the road is a must-ride for every motorcyclist touring in the area. The views are distracting, but the road can be tricky. So stay focused!

For our ride back to Seefeld we should opt for the scenic route around the Karwendel mountains. During a short stint back to Bavaria you can see the young Isar, the river that flows through Munich and take a look at the "Lüftlmalerei" in Wallgau.

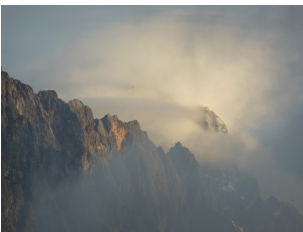
### Highlights:

#### #1: Zillertal panoramic road



When it comes to riding and scenery the Zillertaler High Alpine Road is at the top of its game and a delicacy for motorcyclists! Amidst breathtaking mountain scenery the small, twisty backroad really takes you into the remote Austrian hinterland. Usually there is not much traffic so nothing should stand in the way between you, your bike and a great riding experience.

#### #2: Karwendel



The Karwendel is the largest range of the Northern Limestone Alps. Four chains stretch from west to east; in addition, there are a number of fringe ranges and an extensive promontory in the north. The term 'Karwendel' describes the part of the Alps between the Isar and Inn rivers and the Achensee. From about 1920 on, the Karwendel became a protected area, and since 1999 the Karwendelpark has been part of the Natura-2000 program

of the European Community.

## Optional Route (183 km / 114 miles)

Today we take off to explore the side roads of the River Inn Valley. Aside from stopping at the Olympic bobsleigh run and taking a short walk through the old city center of Hall in Tirol, riding through farm villages takes all morning.

On our lunch break beside the beautiful Achensee, we get the chance to see the Achenseebahn, which is Europe's oldest steam operated cog railway, that climbs to Seespitz on Lake Achensee. The afternoon leads us through the heart of the Karwendel Mountains back to Seefeld.

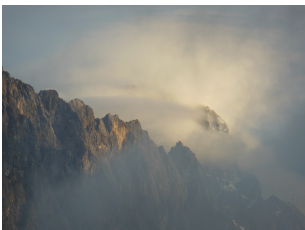
### Highlights:

#### #1: Hall in Tirol



Hall was first mentioned in a document in 1256. From the 13th century on the salt mine in the Halltal north of Hall was the main industry of the town and its surroundings. The importance of the salt is also displayed in the coat of arms showing two lions holding a cask of salt. The salt was exported to Switzerland and some regions in Germany. In 1303 Hall was made a town, and in 1477, it received the right of coinage. In 1486 the first high-grade silver Taler, the precursor of the dollar, was coined here.

#### #2: Karwendel




The Karwendel is the largest range of the Northern Limestone Alps. Four chains stretch from west to east; in addition, there are a number of fringe ranges and an extensive promontory in the north. The term 'Karwendel' describes the part of the Alps between the Isar and Inn rivers and the Achensee. From about 1920 on, the Karwendel became a protected area, and since 1999 the Karwendelpark has been part of the Natura-2000 program of the European Community.

## #3: Mittenwald



Around a dozen master violin makers are active in Mittenwald and their pieces are highly desired in the music world. Mittenwald is also famous for their historical outdoor frescoes. The magnificent "picture books" on houses are typical of the Werdenfels region and Upper Bavaria.





We wish you a wonderful tour.

Worldwide the #1 in  
guided motorcycle tours.



EDELWEISS BIKE TRAVEL // Sportplatzweg 14, 6414 Mieming, Austria  
Tel.: +43 5264 5690 // Fax: +43 5264 5690 3

[facebook.com/edelweissbicycletours](https://facebook.com/edelweissbicycletours) // [info@edelweissbicycle.com](mailto:info@edelweissbicycle.com)  
[www.edelweissbicycle.com](http://www.edelweissbicycle.com)