***PRESSE-INFORMATION***

**Berchtesgadener Land Tourismus**

Summer 2018

**Experience pristine nature, alpine wildlife and breathtaking views**

Our suggestion: Journey from one hut to the next on a four-day hike through the national park Berchtesgaden

**Swap TV screens, whirlpools and latte macchiatos for magnificent views, pristine alpine lakes and fresh milk straight from the cow. We have to admit: luxury is left behind once you embark on a hiking journey through the Berchtesgadener Land, overnight in lofty heights, sleep in a mattress dorm and wake up with the marmots at the crack of dawn to leisurely continue the adventure – long before the first gondola arrives with guests on day-time excursions. The journey itself becomes the destination and with each step you will find yourself unwinding in peaceful alpine seclusion.**

One of the region’s most beautiful hut hikes leads straight through the unspoiled nature of the Berchtesagaden National Park. The four-day excursion requires 5 hours of hiking each day and starts off from the parking area at Lake Königssee. Get out your hiking boots and conquer the 1000 meters (3280 feet) in elevation to reach the Gotzenalm (1685 m/5528 ft), the highest alpine pasture in the Berchtesgadener Land. A must-see before enjoying dinner at the hut: “Only a few minutes walk away you’ll find the lookout-point Feuerpalven, where you can admire the most beautiful view of Lake Königssee”, suggests Herbert Wendlinger, hiking guide and head of a ski school, who knows “King Watzmann’s realm” like the back of his hand.

After breakfast head for the Wasseralm and discover another of Wendlinger’s secret tips: “Only a few years ago the small ‘alm’ that lies amid mountain pastures at an elevation of 1400 meters (4593 feet) was a mere self-catering hut. Today one can enjoy hearty meals here, as well as cold drinks and even spend the night. However, a reservation is necessary as there are only 40 sleeping spaces at most.” In fact this small hut with its dormitories is considered to be one of the most beautiful and rustic spots in the entire national park.

On the other hand, the Kärlingerhaus, also called Funtenseehaus, offers a touch of luxury amid splendid alpine views and provides shelter on the evening of the third hiking day. In order to reach the hut you will need to pass by the Halskopf, the Grünsee Lake and vanquish approximately 300 steps, also known as the “stairway to the sky”. Here you can relax after a day of diversified hiking through alpine pastures and past pristine lakes with breathtaking views.

Locals are seldom seen jumping into alpine water. “Usually it’s only the coast dwellers from the North who would do that. The water is generally too cold for us”, Wendlinger admits with a smirk. The Funtensee Lake (1638 m/5374 ft) near the Kärlingerhaus has an element of reputation about it: this mountain lake became famous thanks to the TV weather forecaster Jörg Kachelmann, who established a weather station there and noted that the Funtensee was the coldest place in Germany due to a geographic curiosity. In the winter the cold air accumulates in the cirque of the high mountain valley and causes record-breaking temperatures below zero. “At the height of summer, however, the lake can reach quite pleasant temperatures of around 18 degrees Celsius (64 °F)“, says Wendlinger. Perfect to at least treat your feet to some relief after a long day of hiking.

After a hearty breakfast on the terrace of the Kärlingerhaus you will embark on the last stage of the journey. The fourth day of hiking leads through the notorious Saugasse with its 36 hairpin bends, where hikers must descend the 400 meters (1312 feet) in elevation until they reach St. Bartholomä. From there a spectacular boat ride across Lake Königssee completes the hiking adventure, which, by the way, can be shortened to three days for those in good shape.

***Information German Alpine Association DAV***

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