

**AUSTRIAN HIKING ADVENTURE: HIKE STUBAI ALPS IN TYROL**  
**AMC Major Excursion # 0912, July 10 - 24, 2009**

Dear Prospective Participant:

Thank you for your inquiry about our trip “Austrian Hiking Adventure: Hike Stubai Alps in Tyrol”, scheduled for July 10 - 24, 2009. We will have 11 days of easy intermediate and advanced intermediate hiking in the picturesque Stubai region of western Austria, near Innsbruck. There will be two days for optional excursions to Innsbruck. Our base will be Neustift, a colorful Tyrolean village nestled at 3542 feet in a beautiful green alpine valley surrounded by spectacular 10,000 foot peaks and headed by the Stubai Glacier.

AMC major excursions are led by volunteers on a non-profit basis. Any monies left over after trip expenses are covered will be refunded to the participants. As leaders our goals for the group are to have fun, stretch your skills, and savor a foreign culture safely, easily, at reasonable cost and in the company of other adventurers with similar interests. We encourage your individual contributions, cooperation and good humor to enrich the group’s experience. We expect you to participate as part of a group and abide by the leaders’ decisions, and work towards the group having a good time. Be prepared to help your fellow hikers and spend time with other participants on the trip. In doing so you will enjoy the trip to the maximum. **GROUP SAFETY** will be our #1 priority.

**HIKING IN THE TYROLEAN ALPS :**

Each day you’ll have a choice of an easy intermediate or an advanced intermediate day hike. The hikes typically start up through the steep pine forests of the “Grund” to the broad sloping high meadows or “Alms” above. Each day we will enjoy a delicious lunch at an alpine “Hut” or restaurant along the way. You can also pack a lunch of delicious local cheeses, meats, and bread. For advanced hikers the day continues up mountain ridges beyond the “Huttes” to places of interest. Lifts and other public transport will be used as appropriate; on one such day we will take lifts to the “Top of Tyrol” at 10,333 feet, the highest restaurant in Austria. We will visit from 7 to 9 “Huttes” (Huts), depending on weather and hiking abilities. There are also many trails to hike in the valley and along the river, which are very relaxing and pleasant. Also, there can be two treks offered to panorama views and to the needles above Neustift.

The hiking pace will be the **SLOW, STEADY, MOUNTAIN GUIDES’ PACE**; this is a pace that will be used on every day hike, for easy intermediate and advanced intermediate. It is the pace used by the Austrian Alpine Guides, which they recommend at these altitudes for maintaining stamina. We will maintain this pace without exception. This is a proven mountain hiker’s pace; **if this is not your pace, then this trip is not for you.**

We like to stop occasionally to enjoy the magnificent mountain views, look for animals, admire the alpine wildflowers, which should be at their peak, or take photographs. The first few days will feature low-level hikes to acclimatize you carefully to the altitude. Thereafter, at higher elevations the easy intermediate day hikes will range from 4 to 6 hours in length, with elevation change (ups and downs) varying from 1500 ft. to 2500 ft. per day. The advanced intermediate day hikes will range from 5 to 8 hours, with elevation change up to 3500 ft. Look forward to a cold beverage, delicious torte, or apple strudel afterwards!

### **ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS AND ACTIVITIES**

In Neustift we'll be staying for 13 nights at the delightful 3-star Hotel Bellevue perched on a hill with beautiful views of the Stubai valley. It's located about 5 minutes from the village center and right by a bus stop. The hotel has cozy rooms with private bath and some with balcony, a Tyrolean bar and formal dining room with a great view of the Stubai valley, comfortable living room, large sun porch and terrace with deck chairs for after hike relaxation! It also offers sauna, steam bath, jacuzzi. There is a computer available gratis on the sun porch. The hotel is run with great charm and care by Patti and Hans Hofer. Patti is a vivacious American and Hans is a certified mountain guide, former Neustift mayor and chef par excellence. The Bellevue will provide us with full buffet breakfasts and 4-course dinners featuring Austrian specialties. Their cuisine is rated excellent 4 star quality.

The Neustift area offers many opportunities for relaxation and fun. Access to the village's nearby indoor and outdoor pools is free. Tennis courts are available at discount rates. The handsome 18<sup>th</sup> century baroque church is worth exploring along with the ornate ironwork in the cemetery. Tyrolean folk evenings in community center are not to be missed. Dances and band concerts are presented by the village. In case of bad weather or for a rest day, you can explore the historic and fascinating town of Innsbruck, the capital of Tyrol Province and Maximilian's Imperial seat, just 1 hour and 20 minutes by bus and scenic railway. This excursion would be optional and not paid by trip funds. The 10 day tourist cards will allow you unlimited transportation in the Stubai valley: buses, lifts (4), scenic train to Innsbruck. One day we will use Jeep taxis to a trail head for an Alpine Hut excursion.

### **COSTS COVERED:**

All accommodations, double occupancy.

Chartered bus travel from Munich, Germany to Neustift and return to Munich, Germany

Unlimited travel in Neustift for 10 days; bus, lifts, scenic train, Jeep Taxi last day hike.

All breakfasts and dinners, excluding dinner alcoholic beverages and coffee/tea/  
mineral water.

Medical evacuation and repatriation insurance.

**COSTS NOT COVERED:**

- Airfare from Boston or New York to Munich, Germany and return to U.S.A.
- Lunches and snacks
- Alcoholic beverages, and dinner drinks other than plain water.
- Individual (non-group) excursions and additional lifts, bus, rail, taxis, or car rentals.
- Optional day trips in Innsbruck.
- Trip insurance.

**RESERVING A PLACE AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

The land cost of the trip is \$2295.00, plus estimated airfare of \$1165 to \$1513. To reserve your place, please fill out and return the enclosed application, the Confidential Medical Form and the Acknowledgment & Assumption of Risks & Release and Indemnity Agreement. Once you have been approved for the Major Excursion, you will be required to send to the Leader your deposit of **\$800.00** made out to: **AMC MAJOR EXCURSIONS**. \$50.00 of this initial \$800.00 deposit is a non-refundable administration fee. Once we receive your application, other forms and have approved you for the trip, we'll send you additional information on the trip, including planned hikes, equipment lists, and travel tips. The maximum number of participants is 18, so apply early to reserve your place (the last trip in 2006 had a waiting list).

<b><u>PAYMENT 2 DUE:</u></b>	<b>MARCH 1, 2009</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>
<b><u>PAYMENT 3 DUE:</u></b>	<b>APRIL 14, 2009</b>	<b>\$745.00</b>

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

If you cancel after being accepted for the trip, \$50 is non-refundable, but if you cancel after March 1, 2009, minimally \$500 is nonrefundable, if (and only if) another person takes your place. We will establish a waiting list. Should another person replace you, you will be charged only the \$500 cancellation fee. However, your cancellation shall not raise the cost of the trip to any of the participants or the leaders. Thus, if you cancel and are not replaced, you will forfeit the \$500 plus the per capita expenses already incurred and any other unpaid expenses for which the trip cannot obtain a refund. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance. Information on a company recommended by the AMC will be sent to you.

PLEASE NOTE: The price of the major excursion is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate increases will be passed on to participants.

**AIR COSTS (ESTIMATED \$1165 - \$1513):**

Leaders will explore the best possible options for air travel – most likely on United or Lufthansa, since they offer the connections we need. For this trip we estimate a range of \$1165 - \$1513. We will assist you in any way during the reservation process. But you should not make any booking on your own without consulting the leaders. Once you purchase tickets, they are wholly owned by you. We will inform you of the arrival time for you to be at the Munich Airport in order to meet the Charter Bus to Austria. It is your responsibility to be on time or you will need to get yourself to the Hotel Bellevue in Neustift, Austria. The leaders only provide chartered bus transportation when you arrive at the predetermined time.

**FLIGHT RECOMMENDED:**

7-10-09 UNITED OR LUFTHANSA DEPART BOSTON LOGAN 7:50 PM Non-stop  
ARRIVE MUNICH,GERMANY 9:15 AM

7-24-09 UNITED OR LUFTHANSA DEPART MUNICH,GERMANY 3:40 PM N/S  
ARRIVE BOSTON LOGAN 6:05 PM

NOTE: These flights were found on [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)

\*\*\* Trip insurance is recommended, since an illness, accident or death in the family can interfere with your plans. Trip insurance can be obtained through your travel agent or the leaders will provide you with choices of approved trip insurance companies.

**YOUR LEADERS:**

LEADER: TERRY A. PETERS

Terry has been a member of the AMC since 1997 and has led numerous day and weekend hiking trips in the Adirondacks of New York. He led a Major Excursion to Neustift,Austria in 2006. He co-led a Major Excursion to Zermatt, Switzerland in 2004. He has been to the Neustift, Austria area 5 times, and has hiked to 9 high alpine huts in the Stubai Alps. He has hiked the 113 Northeast 4,000 footers. He has hiked several Colorado 14,000 footers. He is retired from a major chemical/photographic company. Interests are hiking, outdoor photography, boating, travel, fine cuisine and sharing similar interests with people.

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EMAIL ADDRESS: [Terrypetersny@aol.com](mailto:Terrypetersny@aol.com)

CO-LEADER: GINETTE BEAUDOIN

Ginette has been a member of the AMC since 1988 and has led several day and weekend trips in the White Mountains of NH, as well as various parts of Maine. She has participated in numerous AMC Major Excursions to Switzerland and Austria, involving hiking and cross country skiing. She has hiked in the Stubai valley as part of Terry's 2006 Major Excursion and hiked to 4 high Alpine Huts. She has hiked the NH 4000 footers. As of the fall of 2007 she became a semi-retired veterinarian. Her interests include hiking, photography, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, travel, information volunteer for AMC and introducing others to outdoor activities.

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We look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Terry A. Peters and Ginette Beaudoin