

# Backcountry Hut to Hut Hiking in the Bavarian Alps 2009

## AMC Trip # 0927

Thursday June 11, 2009 through Sunday June 21, 2009

### PROSPECTUS

#### The Trip

Germany is an ideal country for the mountain hiker. The grandeur of the Alps is an ever-present backdrop, and within this magical mountain landscape lie expansive hiking trails, alpine meadows, traditional huts, and picturesque villages with their colorful decorations. The Bavarian Alps is a region known for its colorful folk customs, traditional alpine festivals, and warm hospitality. This rich cultural environment offers an exceptional backdrop for a hiking trip that is designed to embrace these treasures.



We intend to immerse ourselves in this rich culture with a mountain trek, mostly staying in full service huts along the way. The Wettersteinnggebirge mountain range will be our focus for the trek. This area, near Garmisch-Partenkirchen, is a limestone range that rises abruptly from wide, meadow-covered valleys, offering spectacular views of the area. Zugspitze, the highest summit in Germany, is part of this range and creates a dramatic snow patched backdrop for the hikes.

The trip is 11 days long including the round-trip flights from/to the USA. We'll leave Boston (or other East Coast points) Wednesday evening. After arrival in Munich Thursday morning, we will travel by bus to our hostel in Munich. There we can relax and/or do some sightseeing in Munich. On Friday morning we'll leave Munich by train and travel to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. There, we'll move into our gasthaus and do a hike in the afternoon. The next morning, we'll leave for our hut-hut trek, starting with a hike along a gorge that leads to our first hut. We plan to stay 6 nights in huts. The huts are spaced a day's hike apart, allowing us to enjoy an ever-changing landscape each day. We'll stay 2 nights in one of the huts in order to allow for summiting Zugspitze, conditions permitting. At the end of our hut trek, we'll climb through a mountain pass into Austria and stay in a village gasthaus there. The next day (Friday), we'll leave the mountains and return to our Munich hostel. The trip ends on Sunday morning with participants returning to the airport or extending their personal travels.



## The Huts

The Bavarian Alps contains an extensive hut system. These huts have a long, proud tradition of offering hikers clean, simple refuge, hearty meals and the ambiance of alpine hospitality. The huts are individually owned and operated, so service varies hut to hut. The Oberreintal hut is the most primitive hut. It has an outhouse, an outside cold shower, and doesn't serve food. We'll need to carry in food to this hut. All the other huts have inside toilets and washrooms, and 2 of them have coin operated hot showers. These huts also serve hearty suppers and breakfasts. We'll be sleeping in mixed gender bunkrooms with wide multi-mattress bunks. All the huts provide blankets and pillows; we bring sleep sacks.



## Trip Difficulty

We rate the trip as mildly strenuous. Good physical conditioning and recent hiking and backpacking experience are required for this trip. During our daily hikes, we'll be climbing 2400 – 3000' vertical, sometimes achieving altitudes of 7000-9000'.

Participants need to be comfortable with narrow trails with steep sides. Zugspitze is 2962



meters high (9718 ft) with the last leg over a steep scree field and narrow trails with fixed cables. Participants will be carrying their own personal gear, several days' lunch and snacks, water and some community gear/food. Pack weights are typically 20 - 30 lbs. We'll set an easy pace with photo stops along the way. The group will hike together. Most of all, participants need to have a community-based attitude and a sense of adventure.

## Trip Cost

The price of this trip is \$1450 for AMC members. The non-member price is \$1550, but please note that a one-year AMC membership costs only \$60. Airfare is not included in the trip price and is estimated at \$1000-1400. A deposit of \$500 is required to secure your place; this will be returned if your application is not accepted, or if you withdraw before being accepted. Another \$500 is due on the acceptance of your application, and the balance is due on April 1, 2009. You may be considered to have canceled if a payment is not received on time. Deposits and balance payments (payable to the "AMC -Trip") are

subject to the cancellation and refund policy below. Send applications and checks to: Robin Melavalin, 11 Cuthbert Road, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

The trip will be run on a non-profit basis. Any excess funds, after paying actual expenses and a 20% AMC overhead fee, will be refunded to the participants.

The following are included in the price: all lodging (hostels, gasthauses, and huts), ground transportation, all trail fees, all suppers and breakfasts from supper on the first Thursday through supper on the final Saturday. Not included are airfare, lunch, snacks, and expenses such as alcohol and personal purchases.

The leaders will assist participants in making their flight arrangements, determining possible options, and assuring that the group will arrive in Munich as close to the same time as possible.

### **Personal Trip Extension**

The AMC trip formally terminates on Saturday, June 21; however, some individuals may choose to extend their visit in Europe. You can make your own personal plans starting from Munich that morning or from the Munich airport. Participants should notify the leaders of their plans so the leaders can make appropriate arrangements for each participant.



### **Trip Size**

Due to trail safety and hut limitations, the group will be limited to 12, including the leaders. Minimum age for the trip is 18 yrs old. The leaders reserve the right to select a smaller group. Once the trip is full, prospective participants may be accepted to a wait list. The deposit for waitlisted participants is \$500. If an accepted participant cancels, the leaders will look first to the wait list for an additional participant. The \$500 wait list deposit will be refunded to prospective participants not offered a space on the trip.

### **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

Refunds to participants canceling before the trip departs for Europe will be based on our ability to recruit replacements and/or adjust expenses. Cancellation refunds probably won't be returned until after the trip has been completed. Cancellations are considered effective when a leader receives notification.

<u>Date of Cancellation</u>	<u>Cancellation Fee</u>
Before February 28	\$200
From March 1 – May 1	\$800
From May 2 – June 11	\$1450

## **Trip Insurance**

Medical evacuation and repatriation insurance will be purchased for each participant as part of the travel package. In addition, travel cancellation insurance is highly recommended since job requirements, illness, accidents or a death in the family may interfere with your travel plans. We will provide information on how to obtain travel insurance through the AMC.

## **Transportation**

We'll use local transportation to get around Munich and Bavaria. We may elect to use buses, trains and/or cable cars.

## **Equipment**

A complete list of required clothing and equipment is included. Weather conditions are unpredictable and can be quite varied, so participants need to be prepared for cool, rain, and bright warm sun. Participants should have previously used their equipment and be sure of its fit and functionality. Renting equipment is not an option on this trip.



## **Risks**

*Weather* – Trails are clearly marked and can be easily followed even in inclement conditions. But there is some risk that weather conditions will be severe enough or some other factor might force us to alter our original plans. Our intent in these situations will be to involve participants in discussing alternative plans and, as best we can, continue with our hiking adventure in a safe mode. Participants need to maintain some flexibility in these situations. Final decisions will rest with the leaders.

*Altitude* - Most of the trip will be spent at altitudes around 6000 – 7000'. This usually does not present any altitude sickness risk. There is a small risk, however, that participants who have not experienced these altitudes may suffer some sort of altitude sickness. Often, the only cure is to return to lower altitudes. Obviously, we will help sufferers to safety and medical attention in every way possible; a departure of this nature constitutes leaving the trip. Because most trip expenses will have already been expended and are non-refundable, reimbursement may not be possible. Personal, transportation and medical expenses, not covered by Evacuation Insurance, will need to be borne by the participant.

## Leaders



*Robin Melavalin* is a cultural anthropologist who has been involved with educational travel for over 20 years and has led groups to Germany, Cuba and Cape Verde, West Africa. She leads hikes and backpacking trips, mostly in the White Mountains of NH, for the Boston and Southeast Massachusetts chapters of the AMC. For the past two years she has co-led the one-day Presidential Traverse, a 19-mile hike across many summits in the Presidential

Range. Her research and personal travel experiences include Kenya, Nicaragua, China, the Dominican Republic, Russia, Uzbekistan, Costa Rica, Denmark, Bali and the Yucatan in Mexico. She co-led this Bavarian Alps major excursion in 2008.

*Peter Fraunholz* is a Boston Chapter HB leader who has been hiking in the White Mountains for over 20 years. Originally from Miami, Florida, he made his first hiking and backpacking trip in the Rocky Mountains in 1980, as part of a month-long college geology course. Two years later, he studied for a semester in Munich and got his first chance to hike in the Alps. His hiking experience includes trails and peaks in various parts of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, and Alberta. Peter co-led this 2007 hiking trip to Bavaria.



### **Pre-Trip Meeting**

Trip participants should plan to attend a pre-trip hike and meeting in order to go over trip details, identify everyone's expectations, and meet other participants. This meeting will be organized during the late spring / early summer, probably in New Hampshire.

### **Application**

To apply, send a completed and signed application and your \$500 deposit check (made out to "AMC - Trip") to Robin Melavalin. A leader will contact you by phone upon receiving your application materials to discuss the hike, review your experiences and answer your questions. Primary concerns are that prospective participants have adequate hiking experiences, are prepared physically for the rigors of this trip, and have suitable gear. Your deposit check will not be cashed until your application is reviewed and accepted by the leaders.

### **Contact Information**

Peter Fraunholz can be reached at [fraunholtz@hudce7.harvard.edu](mailto:fraunholtz@hudce7.harvard.edu) or by phone at 617.983.2351.

Robin Melavalin can be reached at [rmelavalin@rcn.com](mailto:rmelavalin@rcn.com) or by phone at 617.780.5362.

## **Clothing and Equipment List**

### **Bavaria 2009**

Trip participants are expected to furnish their own personal equipment and clothing. Keep in mind that we'll probably encounter various climates including cool temperatures, rain, and bright warm sun. The following is a list of the basics.

#### **Clothing list**

Various weights of non-cotton shirts/pants/shorts  
Undergarments  
Lightweight fleece/sweater  
Sock combinations that work for you such as poly liner and wool outer sock  
Outer shell jacket (waterproof) with hood  
Outer shell pants (waterproof)  
Lightweight gloves  
Gaiters (optional)  
Lightweight wool or fleece hat  
Lightweight sun hat  
Sunglasses with UV protection

#### **Equipment**

Overnight backpack (3000 cubic inches)  
Sleep sack  
Tevas or flip flops to wear in the huts  
2 water bottles (liter size) or bladders  
Spare glasses, contacts  
Sunscreen (30spf)  
Lip balm w/UV protection  
Lightweight straps

Knorr Hutte, nights 7 + 8, in center



#### **Personal Gear**

ATM/Credit Card  
Personal toiletries  
Ear plugs  
Small towel/soap  
Camera, card, batteries  
Health insurance card  
Passport!

