

PRESS RELEASE

Autumn hiking in Lech Zürs: on the trail of the Walser, modern legends and geological treasures

Lech Zürs am Arlberg, 02 May 2022: When the late summer sun bathes the Lech Alps in a warm light, the clear early autumn mountain air leads to a magnificent view and the whole landscape shines in pastel shades, this is for many the most beautiful time for hiking. The grand finale of the summer season in Lech Zürs is all about slowing down and enjoying culture. "During the weeks in late summer and early autumn, there is a very special atmosphere up here, which is due not only to the charming natural spectacle but also to the great cultural events such as the the top-class Philosophicum Lech. It is a wonderful opportunity to combine peace and relaxation with unforgettable impressions and mental stimulation," says Tourism Director Hermann Fercher.

Take a deep breath, admire the view and enjoy the enchanting nature as a source of strength, inspiration and free space for thought. Hiking gently strengthens condition, circulation, the immune system and the psyche. After all, approx. 350 Kcal are burned per hour during an easy hike, during one in the mountains it rises to 555 Kcal. Walking is the most natural form of exercise and, unlike other endurance sports, can be done by almost anyone. The varied landscape around Lech Zürs offers the best conditions for this, from relaxed walks to extensive discovery tours and high alpine climbs for mountain climbers. In addition, a colourful range of themed hikes lures you into the fascinating history of the region as well as into a modern world of legends, accompanied by fascinating art installations, or into the primeval times before the emergence of the Alps.

Tannberg adventure region - on exciting historical trails through a natural paradise

The picturesque landscape and impressive history of the Tannberg, named after the former Walser court district, are of unique charm. Characterized by the striking massif of the Karhorn in the middle, the region includes Lech Zürs as well as the two other Walser communities Warth and Schröcken to the north. Founded around 1300 by settlers from the Valais, the village boasts impressive historical buildings and relics, still fascinates by its craftsmanship and cultural tradition and, last but not least, the unique cultural landscape goes back to the Walser. In order to pay tribute to their common past,

the three Walser communities created the **Tannberg Theme Trail**, which leads in stages through the extensive, scenically multi-faceted hiking area and can be completed in a good two days. Along the network of paths there are numerous cultural-historical treasures such as centuries-old Walser wooden buildings, atmospheric settings of traditional legends and numerous natural jewels such as the idyllic lake Körbersee, which was named Austria's most beautiful square in 2017.

In his book "Auf den Spuren der Walser am Tannberg" the Innsbruck journalist and author Olaf Sailer dedicates a detailed text to each of the 57 sights. The well-researched stories tell, among other things, of the diligence and homesickness of the so-called Swabian children, of the sulphur spring as a healthy well of the Walser people or of the Gemstelpass as a mule track, trade route and smuggler's route. They report from the back of the mountain as the birthplace of skiing on the Tannberg or describe the legend of the little shepherd of Bürstegg - that abandoned Walser settlement that is now managed as an alpine pasture and with its wonderful flair lets you trace past times. The various hiking routes are suitable for everyone during relaxed mountain hikes "in the footsteps of the Walser" - with a recommended refreshing stop in one of the quaint "Alps". Short versions of the exciting stories and information on the individual stages are also available on an interactive hiking map and with an app.

A special attraction is the popular geocaching during the discovery tour at Tannberg. Around 30 creative caches can be "logged" on three different routes: In Lech the tour "Gipt's das? leads through the area of geologically remarkable gypsum holes, at "Pfarrer Müller und das weiße Gold" in Warth the historical paths stand in the centre and in Schröcken the entertaining search revolves around the theme "Walser village and natural jewels". The electronic treasure hunt is based on the idea of hiding caches and marking them with geocoordinates. The position of the treasures is published on the internet. Once the cache has been located, the discoverer enters the name and date in the logbook inside. In the tourist offices of Lech Zürs, Warth and Schröcken there are treasure maps and stamp passes available, which can also be downloaded from the Internet. For fully completed stamp passes, the successful geocachers receive individual "Tannberg Geocoins" at the tourist offices as a reward, which can then be sent on a world tour from geocache to geocache.

Mehr unter <https://www.lechzuers.com/en/summer/summer-activities/hiking/the-tannberg>

The Green Ring and Geoweg Rüfikopf - modern art & legends and witnesses of primeval times

Another unique theme trail in Lech Zürs am Arlberg is "**Der Grüne Ring**". The three-day stage hike leads over mountain ridges with fantastic views and through tranquil valley depressions, past charmingly situated mountain lakes and rushing mountain streams with waterfalls. On the Green Ring

you can not only explore the enchanting mountain world, but also immerse yourself in a modern world of legends, created with a lot of wit and charm by the Bregenz writer Daniela Egger. Her literary hiking map with the beautiful title "A Samurai on the Kriegerhorn" contains 36 stories about the individual locations, where you can find a hut library, wooden sculptures or also "weird birds and crazy insects". The installations and landscape interventions were created by the Tyrolean sculptor Daniel Nikolaus Kocher, who also created the book illustrations. Most recently, the fascinating theme hike was extended to include the "Green Riddle Ring" - a hiking adventure for the whole family.

Further information on the Green Ring can be found at www.lechzuers.com/en/summer/summer-activities/hiking/the-green-ring

The Geoweg at Rüfikopf, which is as scenic as it is enlightening, invites you to a thrilling journey through time over more than 200 million years. From the top station of the Rüfikopf cable car at around 2,350 m, the circular hike leads through a magnificent alpine "rock garden", accompanied by magnificent mountain flora and a breathtaking panorama. The theme trail focuses on partly bizarre and all of them impressive testimonies to the history of the earth: from the emergence of the Alps to the formative formation of mighty glacial streams. A multifaceted palette of geological phenomena offers great insights into the origins and structure of the mountains and the richness of submerged life worlds. What today characterises the landscape of Lech was close to the equator in prehistoric times. Where today one walks through alpine terrain, mussels and squid cavorted in prehistoric times. The rock of the Rüfikopf tells the story of the emergence and decay of entire continents; its sediments contain the most valuable relics, which can be admired from close up. The Geoweg was designed by the Lecher mountain guide and photographer Georg Schnell, who offers guided tours.

Further information on the Geoweg can be found at www.lechzuers.com/geoweg-ruefikopf

General Information about Lech Zürs am Arlberg: www.lechzuers.com

Press Contact:

Eva-Maria Müller

Head of PR & Travel Relations / Corporate Communications

Dorf 164 / 6764 Lech am Arlberg

Tel: +43 (5583) 2161 522

E-Mail: presse@lechzuers.com

Lech Zürs Newsroom: www.lechzuers.com/de/presse