

Hike the Majestic Trails of South Tirol's Ortler Mountains

June 29-July 11, 2019

RESERVE TODAY!

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WANTED: A FEW MORE ALPINE HIKERS!

Help us grow our crew of alpine hikers. Save \$500 for each new hiker you recruit for the Trails of Italy's Ortler Mountains.

** Discount can be applied to your final invoice or shared with the recruit so you both receive a \$250 savings.

Sunrise cloud cover, Ortler mountains

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Ascending on the trail. Photo by: Kris Fallon



Several years ago our Alpine wanderers hiked in what we all came to feel was perfection: the dramatic Ortler Range and the lovely mountain village of Suldén. And, perhaps liked best of all, the perfect alpine hotel – the Cristallo.

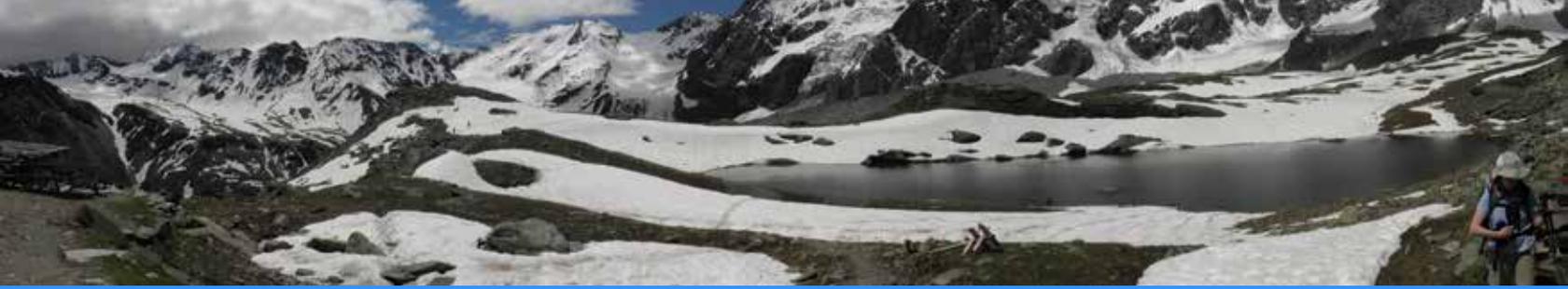
Join us as we return to the Ortlers and the Hotel Cristallo in 2019.

Located where the famed Stelvio Pass marks the border of Switzerland's Graubünden and Italy's South Tirol, the Stelvio National Park is one of the best-kept alpine secrets. Monte Cevedale, at 3,769 meters (12,365 feet), and the surrounding peaks tower over the remote "hanging" valley of the Suldental. The small quiet village of Suldén, or Solda in Italian, has a few hotels, food stores, sport shops, and a local church.

Our favorite mountain hotel, the Cristallo, is owned by the Reinstadler family, whose roots in the valley go back centuries. The Cristallo offers comfortable rooms, awesome breakfasts, outstanding five-course evening meals, remarkable Alto Adige wines, and attentive service.

Take a look at their website: www.cristallosulden.it.

On the cover: Church of Suldén. Photo by: Kris Fallon



Snow on the trail, Ortler mountains

ITINERARY

June 29, 2019

Individuals depart from the United States.

June 30, 2019

Arrive Zürich Airport where the bus will meet us for the dramatic journey across the Alps to Italy's South Tirol in time for a welcome "aperitivo" at the Hotel Cristallo.

July 1-4, 2019

The itinerary for these days will include the following:

- A new warm up hike down to the Stilfser Brücke on the Solda River.
- A return visit to the Düsseldorfer Hut for dramatic views across the valley to the high Ortler peaks beyond.
- The Madritschjoch Hut from the top of the Sulden Lift with a chance to continue up to the Madritschjoch itself.
- Hike up the valley's lateral moraine to the Hintergrat Hut where you can choose to descend to the lift mid-station or continue across the moraine and glacial till to the top of the lift.

July 5, 2019

Today, enjoy the day off. Cross the Stelvio Pass by bus to the ancient Münstair Abbey in Switzerland, one of the oldest monasteries in the Alps and a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its 9th century Carolingian frescoes. Enjoy a guided tour of the church followed by lunch.

July 6-9, 2019

The itinerary for these days will include the following:

- Intrepid hikers can choose the challenging Berglhütte-Edelweiss-Alpenrosehütte Circuit, or take a more leisurely pace and enjoy the views from the Berglhütte and then, after lunch, return past the three waterfalls to the trailhead.
- Choose between a moderate climb from the village to the Tabretta Hut or continue up to the isolated Payer Hut.
- Hike past Alpenrose to the edge of the Rosim Glacier. Take the Kanzel Lift to hike up the Rosenboden and then descend back to the Sölden Lift station.
- If the snow cover allows, travel to the top of the Stelvio Pass and follow the panoramic Goldsee trail to the Furekelhütte and the lift to down to Trafoi.

July 10, 2019: A Zürich Farewell

Say goodbye to the mountains and travel to Zürich, where we will check in to the Hotel Alexander in Old Town. Here, there will be time to explore the nearby town and church before our farewell dinner.

July 11, 2019

Depart from Zürich airport.

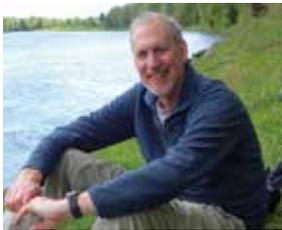


Flora & Fauna of the Ortler mountains. Photos by: Kris Fallon

PRICING

PER PERSON	
Double Room	\$5,295
Single Room	\$5,645
Zürich Extra Nights	
Double room per night	\$330
Single room per night	\$295

Hike Leaders



Joe Carper has led hikers for 30 years on treks through US National Parks, along the Milford Track in New Zealand and on numerous hikes throughout Europe and the Alps. Joe has enjoyed some of the classic Alpine adventures, including the Tour of Mont Blanc, the Monte Rosa circuit, the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt, much of the GR5 in France, treks through the Dolomites and the Bernese Oberland, and the Coast to Coast trail across England. This past season, he explored some of the trails connecting the “white villages” of the Moors in southern Andalusia, Spain. For 15 years Joe oversaw membership

programming and later retail and business operations for the Smithsonian. More recently, he served as Director of Operations for the Appalachian Mountain Club in Boston where he managed educational programming and the Club’s extensive lodge and mountain hut operations in New Hampshire’s White Mountains. He and his wife reside in Newburyport, MA.



Caroline Ogden finds herself at home hiking throughout the Alps as well as in her own red-rock backyard – the Rocky Mountains and Colorado. She is a longtime member of the Academic Travel Abroad family, where she has coordinated and designed cultural travel programs worldwide. When not at home, hiking, cycling, or yoga-ing, Caroline is leading tours on Switzerland’s Glacier Express into Italy, or navigating groups through Cuba, Yellowstone and Northern Ireland.





ABOUT THE TRAILS

Hiking in the Ortler Mountains can be challenging for the fit hiker. Each day there will be two hiking options, allowing hikers to choose a more or less challenging itinerary. Participants will be on the trail for about 5-7 hours, or 5-10 miles each day, including breaks and lunch stops, and will encounter elevation gains and/or losses of 500-3,000 feet. The paths and trails along the valleys are mostly wide and well maintained, but on the steeper trails leading to higher elevations, hikers can expect to encounter some moderately steep ascents and descents, and at times, narrow rocky paths. There is little exposure (steep, unprotected drop-offs) on any day's hike. Sturdy boots and adequate outer gear for protection from the sun, cold, and wind are essential.

LODGING & MEALS



Hotel Cristallo lies just beyond the village. It offers easy access to the trails and lifts. This small mountain hotel caters to European guests and features an outstanding kitchen. Its sommelier Phillippe Reinstalder is certified in Adige and Trentino Italian wines. The sleeping rooms are comfortable with modern bathrooms. Many of them overlook the valley and the peaks beyond.

All breakfasts and dinners are included and each hotel offers a full breakfast buffet. A lighter fare of cereals, fruits, and yogurt are also available. Packed trail lunches are provided for a total of four days, and are included in the tour price.



Hotel Alexander is located in the heart of Zürich's Old Town just a short distance from the Hauptbahnhof and the Lake of Zürich.



Scenic Stelvio Pass

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Expert hike leaders
 - All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary
 - All ground transportation within the itinerary unless otherwise indicated
 - All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary
 - Entrance fees
 - Gratuities to porters, drivers, and guides
 - Transfers to and from airports for those arriving or departing according to the designated itinerary
 - Baggage handling for one checked piece and one carry-on piece per person
 - The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights, or other services
 - Comprehensive pre-departure information about the destination and what to expect on the trip
-

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare from your home to Zürich and return
 - Airport transfers and baggage handling for travelers arriving well before or after the planned group transfer or departing the trip before or after the planned group transfer
 - Travel and trip cancellation insurance
 - Passport, visa, airport departure and excess baggage fees
 - Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of the included meals
 - Personal items such as telephone, fax and internet charges, laundry, room service, alcoholic or other beverages not specified as included
 - Gratuities for non-group services
 - Expenses resulting from delays due to bad weather, road conditions, sickness, government action, and flight delays
 - Expenses incurred in making individual travel arrangements in conjunction with the trip
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Terms and Conditions

SINGLE ROOMS

A limited number of single rooms are available at extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis, but availability cannot be guaranteed. Please understand that, in some hotels, single rooms are very small. The premium you pay is for privacy, not spaciousness.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

\$500 deposit upon application. Balance due upon receipt of invoice, 90 days before departure. Acceptable forms of payment for the deposit are personal check, wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final payment may be made by credit card, check or wire transfer. If final payment is not received by 60 days prior to departure, your space is subject to cancellation. If you are making a reservation within 90 days of the trip's departure, full payment will be required upon confirmation.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be submitted in writing (email or fax) to Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. (ATA). Per person cancellation fees are based on the date of the cancellation notice reaching ATA. More than 120 days prior to departure; refund of deposit less an administration fee of 50% of deposit. Cancellation between 119-91 days before departure: 100% of deposit is forfeited.

Cancellation between 90-61 days, 50% of the tour price if forfeited. Cancellation within 60 days of departure: no refund. Cancellation on day of departure or after tour departs: no refund. No refund for unused portions of tour, including, but not limited to, missed meals, hotel nights and sightseeing. Cancellation of program by ATA: full refund. Reservations are not transferable without the explicit approval of ATA.

NOTE: ATA accepts no liability for any airline or train cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or train ticket to the tour departure city or return.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. We will send you a brochure from Travel Insurance Services, or you may obtain coverage through a company of your choice. All ATA trips include Emergency Evacuation Insurance as part of the trip price.

A NOTE ABOUT THE ITINERARY

While every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, the nature of travel is unpredictable and we must be prepared for changes. The itinerary as described is subject to modification by ATA. Rest assured that, should any changes be needed, we commit to deliver an experience as outstanding as the one originally planned.

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

To enjoy your travels to the fullest, you should be in good physical and mental health.

Any physical condition requiring special attention, diets, or treatment must be reported in writing when the reservation is made. We reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant should such a person's health, mental condition, physical infirmity, or attitude jeopardize the operation of the travel program or the enjoyment of other participants. All health information is protected and treated as confidential.

RESPONSIBILITY

Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. (ATA), is a professional travel company, and acts only as an agent for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotels, and all matters of reservations and trip operation. We and our agents accept no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity, expense or liability caused by the defect of any vehicle or negligence or default of any independent contractors, their employees, agents, or representatives. Nor do we accept responsibility for losses or delays arising from sickness, pilferage, acts of terrorism, weather conditions or acts of God. All such losses or expenses shall be borne by the program participant. We reserve the right to cancel any trip prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We likewise reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any trip participant at any time without being under any obligation to assign any reason therefore. In the event of the exercise of this right, we shall be under no liability to such person(s) except to refund such amount as our absolute discretion deems reasonable to attribute to the uncompleted portion of the trip. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that air, ship or train tickets when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and carrier concerned. The airlines and all other transportation companies involved in this trip are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their plane or conveyances. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which they are rendered. The participant agrees on behalf of herself/himself, her/his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the above conditions and to release and hold harmless, Academic Travel Abroad, Inc., and any of their representatives from any and all liability for any delays, damage, loss, injury or death occurring in relation to this tour.

CALIFORNIA SELLER OF TRAVEL PROGRAM | CST #2059002-40

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WANTED: A FEW MORE ALPINE HIKERS!

Help us grow our crew of alpine hikers. Save \$500 for each new hiker you recruit for the Trails of Italy's Ortler Mountains.

** Discount can be applied to your final invoice or shared with the recruit so you both receive a \$250 savings.



On the trail, Ortler hike Photos by Kris Fallon