



EAGLE WALK STAGE 11

Karwendelhaus Lodge – Hallerangerhaus Lodge

This walk is a long and arduous journey of about 14 kilometres. The trail climbs steeply from **Karwendelhaus Lodge** and the scramble starts at Schlauchkar Cirque. Here, the trail becomes increasingly rock-laden and you'll have to cross a snowfield. Beyond **Birkkar Refuge**, the final push to the summit of **Birkkarspitze** is an exposed scramble assisted by a fixed anchoring system of cables. A knee-jarring descent takes you into lovely **Hinterautal Valley** and along a forest road. Parallel to the cascading Lafatscherbach Brook, the trail heads to **Lafatscher Niederleger** with its quaint Alpine Pasture Hut. Soon after, it branches off towards **Hallerangerhaus Lodge** and the destination end of what is often called the Eagle Walk's "hardest mile".

Starting Point	Karwendelhaus Lodge
Destination	Hallerangerhaus Lodge
Distance	14 Kilometers
Elevation ↑	1,440 m
Elevation ↓	1,450 m
Hiking Time	8.5 Hours
Difficulty	Difficult (black)



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Eagle Alpine History

Hermann Buhl and Karwendel Mountains in the Winter. **Hermann Buhl (1924 – 1957)** was an Innsbruck-born mountaineer whose accomplishments include the first ascent of Nanga Parbat and the first ascent of Broad Peak. He began **climbing the Karwendel Mountains** in the 1930s in **preparation for his expeditions to world's Eight-Thousanders**. Buhl introduced a **new Alpine style** ascent of Eight-Thousanders, in contrast to the "siege" tactics generally used back then. Alpine style is mountaineering in a self-sufficient manner, thereby carrying all of one's food, shelter and equipment, as opposed to expedition style (siege style) mountaineering, which involves setting up a fixed line of stocked camps on the mountain. Alpine style also means no use of fixed ropes, high-altitude porters or supplemental oxygen.



EAGLEKICK

Craggy **Birkkarspitze** Peak is the **most prominent peak in the Karwendel Mountains** with an elevation of 2,749 metres. But, it's a tough calling and a real calorie burner! The way is steep, rugged and entails a whole lot of vertical rise, assisted by a fixed anchoring system of cables in places. Do not summit it if you are prone to vertigo or the least bit uncomfortable.



EAGLEVIEW

Tucked into the forests, a beautiful **gorge** has been carved out by **Lafatscherbach Brook**. A waterfall cascades down a cliff next to the Hunting Lodge below Lafatscher. And don't miss out on the **tiny chapel** set against the backdrop of majestic mountains which allude to even higher destinations. **Halleranger Alpine Pasture Hut** is also from where the Isar River springs.



Trailside Eateries & Accommodations

- 1 Karwendelhaus Lodge
- 2 Kastenalm Alpine Pasture Hut
- 3 Hallerangeralm Alpine Pasture Hut
- 4 Hallerangerhaus Lodge

Trail Description

The path to Birkkarspitze Peak starts next to **Karwendelhaus Lodge**. It starts off very steep and you'll make your way up the cliffs assisted by a fixed anchoring system of cables. The rugged terrain leads through dwarf pines and avalanche barriers. The next stage of the trail is not as steep as the previous. You will pass a trail that branches off towards Hochalmkreuz Cross (to the left) and another fork that leads to Brendelsteig Path (to the right). The path continues upward with the last section towards **Schlauchkarsattel Saddleback** leading to the southwest. At this stage you usually have to cross a (often very hard) snowfield. From **Schlauchkarsattel Saddleback** (elev. 2,639m), walk past **Birkkar Refuge** and climb along the western ridge on a trail that is assisted by a fixed anchoring system of cables. You will then reach the summit of 2,749-metre **Birkkarspitze** with its cross.

From the top, retrace your steps to Schlauchkarsattel Saddleback and continue downhill on the southern side of the mountain. This steep descent towards Western Birkkar Cirque has fixed cables as well. Walk down to Birkkarbach Creek and follow the left bank of the creek downstream, straight ahead into Hintertal Valley until you reach the forest road. Walking along the valley floor, follow signage to "Kastenalm" and/or "Hallerangerhaus". You will pass **Kastenalm Alpine Pasture Hut** and Kasten Hunting Lodge to your right. This section is followed by a steep ascent through forest overlooking Lafatscherbach Brook. You will then reach a high valley with a path leading gently uphill parallel to Lafatscherbach Brook. Having passed the hunting lodge, the trail gets steeper, leading through the Alpine meadows of Lafatscher-Niederleger and past the rustic Alpine pasture hut. Walk along the meadows and take the right fork towards "Hallerangerhaus" (left: **Hallerangeralm** – both are a 10 minute walk). After this last climb you have reached the destination end of this walk, **Hallerangerhaus Lodge** at an elevation of 1,768 metres, a popular base for mountaineers amid the rugged mountains of Karwendel Alpine Park.

MORE DETAILS:

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