



# EAGLE WALK STAGE 15

Solsteinhaus Lodge – Leutasch/Ahrn



From Solsteinhaus Lodge it's steep climbs and rock scrambles north-westward towards **Eppzirler Scharte Notch** – the trail works its way up to the notch that offers superb close-ups of Großer and Kleiner Solstein Peaks, the mighty western cornerstones of the Nordkette Mountains. Beyond a scree cirque, a well-maintained trail leads down into lush Alpine meadows at an elevation of around 1,700 metres, taking you to charming **Eppzirler Alm Alpine Pasture Hut** with its tiny chapel. From there you begin your descent into Eppzirler Valley on a broad road that follows Gießenbach Brook across **Gießenbachklamm Ravine** on a rugged trail. From Gießenbach the trail heads to Scharnitz, and across Hoher Sattel and through a forest to **Leutasch/Ahrn**.

<b>Starting Point</b>	Solsteinhaus Lodge
<b>Destination</b>	Leutasch/Ahrn
<b>Distance</b>	20 Kilometers
<b>Elevation ↑</b>	870 m
<b>Elevation ↓</b>	1,530 m
<b>Hiking Time</b>	6.5 Hours
<b>Difficulty</b>	Intermediate (red)



## Eagle Alpine History

Leutasch's Abundant Wildlife. **Leutasch near Seefeld** is known for its **beautiful mountains and network of immaculately groomed cross country ski tracks in the winter**. The municipality consists of 24 hamlets dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The first people in Leutasch owned cattle, but they mainly lived off the abundance of forests and game. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, these landscapes attracted **great hunters** such as the Duke of Altenburg, Prince Fürstenberg, the Baron of Neurath and poet and writer Ludwig Ganghofer. In late September, the calls of stags in the midst of their mating season echo across the meadows. Leutasch restaurants are **well-known for the venison specialities** they serve up each year in autumn, such as a venison goulash or saddle of venison with glazed chestnuts.



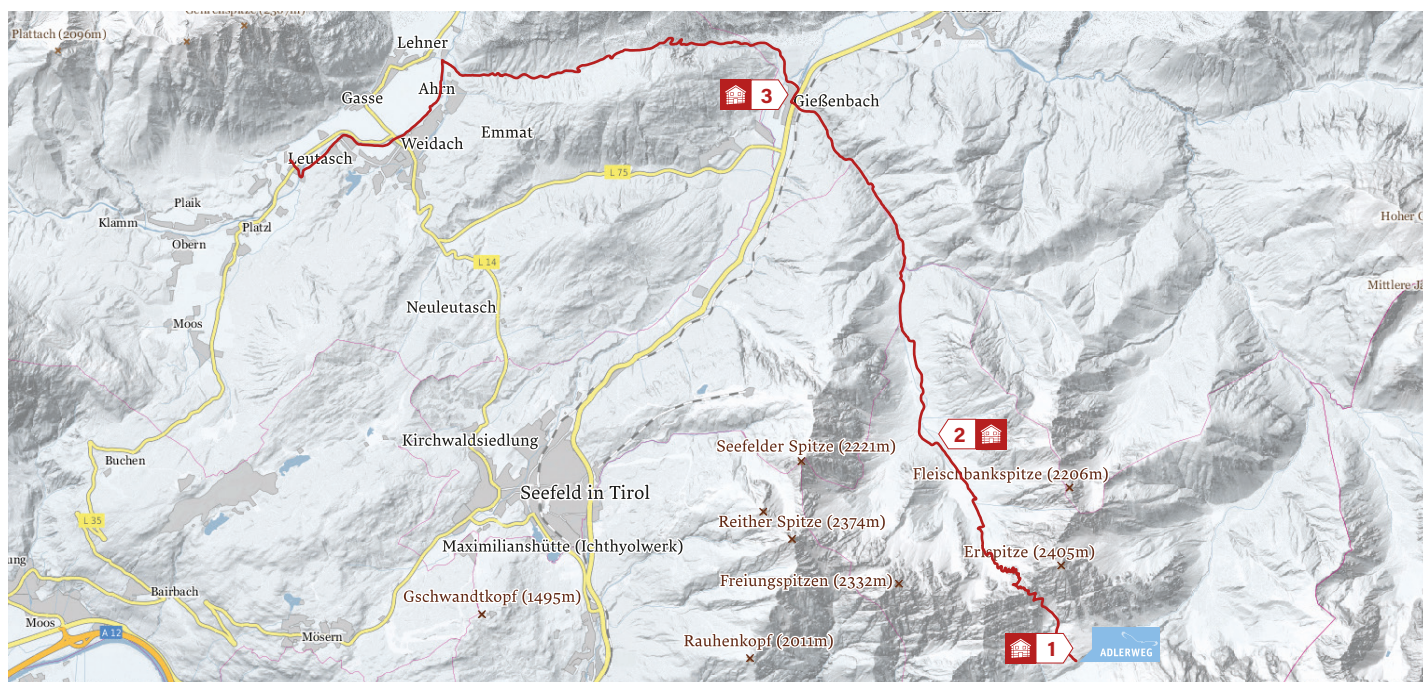
### EAGLEKICK

**Große Arnspitze Peak** is one of the most recognizable peaks between the Wetterstein and Karwendel Mountains. It's **long, steep and challenging getting to the top** and the **summit is a rock-scramble**. But the scenic rewards? They're gigantic! Savour views ranging from the Bavarian foothills, Lake Walchensee, Karwendel and Wetterstein Mountains to the Ötztal and Stubai Alps.



### EAGLEVIEW

Step back in time and explore the remains of an old stronghold: A **mighty bulwark, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Porta Claudia**, was built during the Thirty Years War under the reign of Claudia di Medici as a stronghold between Bavaria and Tirol. Gießenbach Gorge is spectacular and a bench along the trail affords **stunning views of the Karwendel Mountains**.



## Trailside Eateries & Accommodations

- 1 Solsteinhaus Lodge
- 2 Eppzirleralm Alpine Pasture Hut
- 3 Gasthof Ramona Inn

## Trail Description

From **Solsteinhaus Lodge**, follow signs for Eppzirler Notch (“Eppzirler Scharte” and/or “Eppzirler Alm”). First, a path leads across the wide open Alpine meadows of Erlalm Alpine Pasture. Thereafter, it continues across rugged terrain to the beginning of the cirque and upward to Eppzirler Notch. The path forks on the climb; follow signed (“Eppzirler Scharte”) track no. 212. Climbing steeply, the trail leads up to the notch between Kuhlochspitze Peak and Erlspitze Peak. Beyond, walk on a well-maintained path across Kuhloch scree cirque. From here, the path zigzags down and merges into meadows at an elevation of ca. 1,700 metres. After another short ascent, you finally reach the Alpine valley floor. From here, the path gently descends and leads to **Eppzirler Alm Alpine Pasture Hut**, running parallel to the stream bed.

From the hut, you descend on a broad roadway across grazing pastures to Eppzirler Tal Valley and continue heading towards the entrance of the valley. Pass the branch-off to Oberbrunnalm Alpine Pasture Hut (elev. 2,100m) and continue on the downhill path that leads out of the valley. The roadway now runs along Gießenbach Creek into **Gießenbachklamm Gorge**. After the gorge, the path leads to the car park for Eppzirler Alm in Gießenbach (a hamlet of Scharnitz). Cross the railway tracks and the main road. In the village, take the first road to the right heading towards Scharnitz. Then, turn left towards Hoher Sattel Saddle (“Hoher Sattel”). Further on, proceed in the direction of “Bogenschießstand” and/or “Scharnitz” and branch off to the left towards “Leutasch”. Then, bear right onto a forest road towards “Leutasch über hohen Sattel”. After this short level section, the forest road leads up to Sattelklamm Gorge. From the end of the road, a path runs along the slope through groves and climbs vigorously in its middle section. The path turns onto a trail. Follow signage to “Leutasch/Ahrn” until you reach Hoher Sattel Saddle. Beyond the saddle, a (partly rather steep) forest road through forest takes you down to **Leutasch/Ahrn** and to Leutascher Ache Bridge across Satteltal Valley.

### MORE DETAILS:

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