6 Peaks in 5 Days

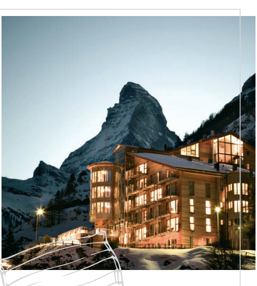
Not surprisingly, scaling incredible summits ranks among the most popular activities in the Alps -- including iconic peaks like the Matterhorn, the mystical Wildspitze glacier, or the vertigo-inducing Zugspitze. But if climbing isn't your thing, you can take a cable car to the tops of these peaceful giants and enjoy the views, sans ice pick.

Breathtaking view of the Zugspitze, Germany's highest peak

1 Zermatt

Picturesque Zermatt lies at the foot of the fabled Matterhorn, one of the world's iconic mountains. The popular, car-free destination has preserved its original character and offers nearly unlimited possibilities for fun, including skiing, climbing, and hiking, as well as boutique shopping and outdoor ice-skating and curling rinks.

STAY



The Omnia Mountain Lodge claims pride of place on a rock high above Zermatt. At the Matterhorn's foot sits the four-star superior **Romantik Hotel Julen,** featuring spruce-paneled rooms.

myswitzerland.com/the-omnia-mountain-lodge
myswitzerland.com/romantik-hotel-julen

EAT

At **Cervo Mountain Boutique Resort,** Alpine-chalet design merges with a hint of hunting lodge. The Cervo-Puro Restaurant boasts 14 GaultMillau points. **Restaurant 1818** serves modern Alpine cuisine.

myswitzerland.com/hotel-cervo.html
myswitzerland.com/restaurant-1818

DO

Zermatt cable cars take visitors to Europe's highest mountain station and the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. **Gorner Gorge** ranks among the most breathtaking natural beauties of Zermatt.

myswitzerland.com/zermatt.htm
myswitzerland.com/gorner-gorge

TopTip

See Amazing Blacknose Sheep

Visit the legendary Blacknose Sheep in the stable of the Julen family every Wednesday. Guests learn about these fascinating animals and regional crops from Paul or Paul-Marc while indulging in local cheese, meat, and wine.

myswitzerland.com/destinations

2 Gstaad

The Gstaad-Saanenland holiday region in the Bernese Oberland attracts a global mix of visitors. While the charming chalet village of Gstaad welcomes famous guests, smaller neighboring towns offer attractive options for families with children. In recent years, the center of Gstaad has developed into the most popular and shortest "shopping mile" in Switzerland.

STAY

The new 4-star superior chalet **Huus Hotel** stylishly combines high-tech design and alpine charm. **The Ermitage Wellness & Spa Hotel** above Gstaad offers magnificent views and parklike grounds.

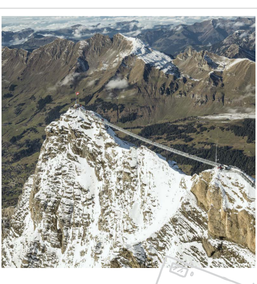
myswitzerland.com/huus-hotel-gstaad
myswitzerland.com/ermitage-golf

EAT

On a sunny hill near Gstaad, **Restaurant Sonnenhof** serves French, Italian, and Swiss cuisine. In Gstaad, Robert Speth, Gault Millau chef of the year in 2005, cooks for **Hostellerie Chesery** guests.

myswitzerland.com/restaurant-sonnenhof
chesery.ch

DO



Take the cable car from **Les Diablerets** for a great view of the mountains. Or buy a packet of fondue mix, **pick up a rucksack packed with picnic essentials**, and set off on the path to haute cuisine.

myswitzerland.com/gstaad-saanenland
myswitzerland.com/fondue-land

TopTip

See Alpine cheese making.

Visitors to Jakob and Erika Zumstein's farm experience hands-on Alpine cheese making. And for those not in a rush, a healthy whey bath awaits -- and even an overnight stay in the hayloft.

myswitzerland.com/gstaad-saanenland

3 Ötztal

The Ötztal region, hugging the Italian border, is quintessentially Alpine, with some of the Tirol's most impressive peaks and most popular resort towns. Experience the breathtaking mountains from the Wildpsitze glacier, a 12,369-foot peak with observation platforms. Breathe the crisp air while mountain biking down the steep rock face. Or just sit in the sun outside one of Ötztal's many Alpine inns.

STAY

Hotel Waldklause in Sölden reflects locals' love of nature through its organic design and cuisine. **Area 47** provides cozy wood tipis for an easy camping experience.

waldklause.at
area47.at

EAT

Sleek-looking **ice Q restaurant** sits at 10,000 feet and is accessible only by cable car. The restaurant **Ötztaler Stube** takes an upscale approach to hearty Tirolean cooking and Alpine inn culture.

iceq.at
central-soelden.com

DO

Have the ultimate glacier experience at the Wildspitze glacier and soak up the views at **Cafe 3.440**. At **Area 47**, indulge your dreams of outdoor adventure.

pitztal.com
area47.at

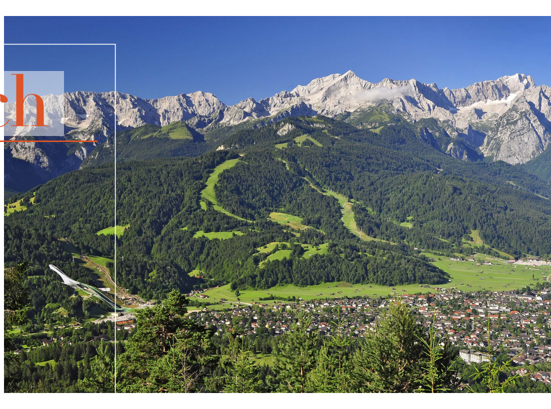
TopTip

An Idyll in Tirol's Alps

Hike up to Gampe Thaya, an Alpine mountain lodge above the Sölden resort region, and enjoy typical Tirolean cooking featuring local produce. Both the cuisine and the panorama are fantastic.

gampethaya.riml.com

4 Garmisch



At the foot of the Zugspitze, Germany´s highest mountain, lies Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Dramatically surrounded by the Alps, the picturesque town keeps its traditions alive with typical Alpine architecture set off by breathtaking mountain scenery. For a staggering view across the Alps, conquer the Zugspitze.

STAY

The luxury 5-star **Hotel Schloss Elmau** serves as the perfect starting point for outdoor adventures. In the center of Garmisch, the 3-star **Garmischer Hof** entices guests with its Alpisana Spa.

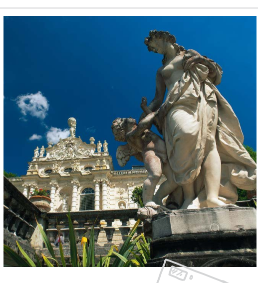
schloss-elmau.de
garmischer-hof.de

EAT

The Mohrenplatz serves traditional Bavarian food and German beer in its beautiful beer garden. **Koch´s Restaurant** offers award-winning, sustainable, and organic cuisine with fresh ingredients.

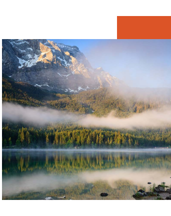
mohrenplatz-garmisch.de
kochs-garmisch.de

DO



Try homemade liquors at the **Benedictine Ettal Abbey,** where monks follow age-old recipes. Dream away your day at romantic **Linderhof Castle**, the smallest of the three palaces built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria.

ettaler.info
schlosslinderhof.de



TopTip

The Soaring Glaciergarden

The Glaciergarden is Germany´s highest restaurant, located atop the Zugspitze. Let the gondola transport you and enjoy not just a breathtaking view of the Alps, but also rich German food and thirst-quenching beer.

zugspitze.de/gletschergarten

5 Hohe Tauern

Austria's tallest mountain, the formidable Grossglockner, sits in the Alps' largest nature reserve. National Park Hohe Tauern contains 226 peaks towering above 9,800 feet, and at an impressive 12,461 feet, the Grossglockner reigns over them all. In addition to its frozen summits, the park contains some of the tallest waterfalls in Europe and an incredible number of Alpine lakes. Simply put, it's an inimitable display of pristine nature.

STAY

Stay in a peaceful Alpine setting at the cozy **Sonnberghof**, with its lovely swimming pond. Or relax at a centuries-old castle in **Schloss Mittersill**, which rises against a stunning mountain panorama.

sonnberghof.at
schloss-mittersill.com

EAT

Restaurant **Haus am Teich** in rustic Mittersill feels surprisingly modern. With its mountain views, the gourmet restaurant at the 4-star Superior Hotel **Schloss Mittersill** is comfortingly traditional.

haus-am-teich-mittersill.at
schloss-mittersill.com

DO

Drive past Austria's tallest mountain on the outrageously scenic **High Alpine Road** and discover the **Krimmler Achental**, a valley with a hidden cheese dairy and a history of peace-making.

grossglockner.at
nationalpark.at

TopTip

Classic Wollstadel Wool

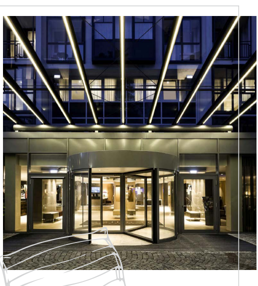
The women of the Salzburger Wollstadel just outside of Mittersill turn sheep's wool into textiles with classic Alpine character. Thick wool socks that warm you against the mountain chill and Austrian-style felt hats make meaningful souvenirs.

wollstadel.at

6 Berchtesgaden

Along the German Alpine Road lies Berchtesgaden, a little town with a rich history of mountaineering and salt mining. Natural salt sources have blessed Berchtesgaden with several saline thermal springs. Over the centuries, many prominent guests, including the king of Bavaria and other nobility, have been drawn to the riches offered by the Alpine National Park.

STAY



The Kempinski Berchtesgaden hotel perfectly combines 5-star luxury and Bavarian hospitality. The historic **Klosterhof hotel** blends a modern interior with a breathtaking mountain panorama.

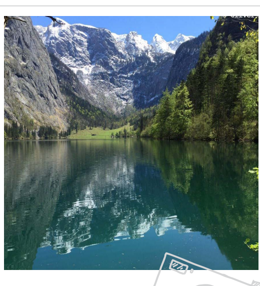
kempinski.com/kempinski-hotel-berchtesgaden/
klosterhof.de

EAT

The Windbeutelbaron Café, overlooking the Bavarian Alps, features regional specialties and cream puffs! **Gasthaus Reichenbach** serves simple traditional dishes inside a 500-year-old salt mine.

windbeutelbaron.de
salzbergwerk.de/gastronomie

DO



Built in 1927, the **Predigtstuhlbahn,** the world's oldest cable car, will lift you to 5,200 feet in just 8 minutes. Hike from alp to alp on the **Almerlebnisweg** and try homemade specialties along the way.

predigtstuhlbahn.de
berchtesgadener-land.com/almerlebnisweg-ramsau

TopTip

Fitness at Rupertus Therme

Berchtesgaden's natural salt sources sparked the stunning Rubertus Therme health complex. Huge windows offer panoramic Alpine views for weary visitors soaking in warm saline pools, which are said to nourish the skin and strengthen the immune system.

www.rupertustherme.de

Continue exploring The Alps

austria.info/alps
germany.travel/alps
myswitzerland.com/alps

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