

# Söll Walks: Longer Walks

## Walk 33: Söll to Hintersteinersee and then on to Scheffau

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Various routes. All involve a steady uphill walk.

**Duration:** 3 – 4 hours

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**Note:** You can also reach the Hintersteinersee by using the free bus to Scheffau Village and then the taxi bus service (free with your resort card) from Scheffau Village centre.

**You can also walk to Hintersteinersee via the Café Rosemarie** – This is the prettiest route. Walk to the café Rosemarie by following 17b as far as the Café Rosemarie. After the café, take the first road left and follow it up until it eventually becomes a winding woodland track. Keep following it up until you come onto a road through a farmyard. Turn right and then take the first path left. Keep straight on and you are on a rugged tree rooted path going clockwise round the lake. This is also a very pleasant downhill walk in reverse to get back to Söll or to the Scheffau gondola.

**The route described here is 70% tarmac road** and virtually no mud and very few cars, but a steady tiring walk from the Gasthof Oberstegen, uphill almost all of the time. There are some tree rooted paths at the end of the walk as you reach and go round the western end of the lake. The path on the near side of the lake is undulating and stony, with trees between you and the lake, whereas the route once you reach the far side of the lake is all tarmac road right by the lake side most of the way, with beautiful views of the lake.

Walking from Söll - Follow the directions to Morsee as in walks 3, 4 or 5. Go past Morsee on its left hand side along the road. After about 100metres go left up a road marked "Keine Streuung". There is a yellow hidden sign "Polverrundgang" on the right of the main road at this point where you turn left. At the next sign marked "Söll 15 mins 55 Gasthof Oberstegen" go down a footpath on the right. Cross the road by a house and follow signs to "Gasthof Oberstegen". Take the small footpath off to the right just as you see the main road for the first time – the path can be difficult to spot. At the Gasthof Oberstegen, cross the busy main road and go up the road opposite the Gasthof Oberstegen following the signs to "Gasthof Achleiten" (closed Mondays) which you reach after about 2 hours. From there, follow signs to Hintersteinersee (which is reached about 5.5 to 6.5 miles from the start depending on which end of the lake you make for).

Soon after Achleiten, the road becomes a farm track. The track then becomes a road again, which zigzags downhill past some very attractive farmhouses. At a signpost which has "ausgenommen Berechtigte" on it, you leave the road leftwards (you can stay on the road signposted "Strasse Hintersteinersee" to reach the right hand end of the lake by asphalted road, but you miss most of the lakeside), and then go left again very shortly where the signpost shows the height as "921m".

This takes you round the left hand end of the lake by an undulating and tree rooted path. The path goes round the marshy area at the end of the lake, before it doubles back. There are two restaurants at this end of the lake - the Pension Maier and the Pension Unterhof. A road then goes alongside the far side of the lake all the way to a large car park and a larger restaurant at the right hand end of the lake. It is about 3.2 miles for a complete circuit of the lake. To the left hand end of the lake from Söll is 5½ miles, but then you have another 2 miles along to the right hand end of the lake (a total of 7.5 miles). Direct to the right hand end of the lake is 6½ miles. This is the departure point for the taxi-bus or for the walk on down to Scheffau.

To get back to Scheffau from the Hintersteinersee to catch the Kaiserjet back to Söll or to walk back, there is a good map by the taxi stop. Go along the road via Barnstatt for about a mile

(there is a pretty chapel at Barnstatt) signposted “Scheffau Dorf. Barnstatt” (there is quite a lot of traffic on the road and no pavement), then left down 822 (also on some maps 911). It is signposted “Leitenhof- Scheffau 822/41”. You get a very good panoramic view over the valley here. You go past a farmhouse. At a yellow signpost after a new house, you take the right fork. At a T junction you go left, then immediately after crossing over the river, go right down the Gaisgraben path to “Scheffau Dorf”. You go straight on down 41. Go right at a sign “Scheffau ¼ hour 41” and then left at a T junction. Go left at the main road. It is just under 3 miles from the Hintersteinersee to Scheffau village, where you can get the bus or walk back to Söll. (So walking all the way from Soll to Scheffau via Hintersteinersee is 10½ miles).

**Walking back via the Café Rosemarie**, the reverse of the walk described earlier, is a much nicer route. You can reach the start of this walk by taking a road to the right just after the car park at the taxibus end of the lake. You walk just over a mile down this quiet road till you come to a farmhouse on a left hand bend. Immediately after the bend, a path is signposted on the left. You follow it downhill through woodland and then on a quiet road. At the bottom, you go right to the Café Rosemarie and then on to Soll or the Scheffau gondola.

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### Walk 34: Scheffau To Hintersteinersee (walking) and then on to Soll

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Uphill for much of the route. Flat along the lakeside road.

**Duration:** 1.5 hours / 3 miles to Hintersteinersee and 10½ miles to Soll.

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**Note:** You can also get the free (with your resort card) taxi/bus from Scheffau to Hintersteinersee,

To walk, go up the main road from the bus stop. Go right at the signpost “Chalet Hof Leitenhof – route “41 Hintersteinersee.” Go right up the road “Leiten 13-34” “Hintersteinersee 1½ hours 41”. At a bend go left before the Leitenhof (there was no sign), then go left at sign “41 Hintersteinersee” just before the Hinterleiten farm (signpost “Hinterleiten 822m”). It is now a footpath going up through the woods.

At the top of 41 at a T-junction go left across the river, then immediately take the right fork - path “822”. “822” becomes a road by a new house. Follow this road left until a junction and a sign “Hintersteinersee”. Go right (a lot of traffic on this road) past the white chapel at Barnstatt, till you reach the car park and eastern end of the lake (just under 3 miles). There is a large Gasthof at the eastern end of the lake.

Go round the lake along the Seerundweg anti-clockwise to get the best views. There are two Gasthofs at the Western end of the lake. Continue round the marshland at the end of the lake. The path here becomes undulating, and tree rooted. About half way along the far side of the lake, you leave the lakeside. You go straight ahead along a track about 100 metres (not signposted) to a road. There are 2 alternatives from here.

- a) Go right at the road. You should see a sign “Achleiten”, and then signs all the way uphill on the road for about half an hour. After less than a mile the road becomes a track, and then becomes a road again going past the Achleiten Restaurant and all the way down to the main Kufstein road at Oberstegen. You can catch the pay bus from here back to Soll, or cross the road and follow the second part of walk 19c back to Soll via Morsee.
- b) Go right at the road. There is immediately a farmhouse on a left hand bend. Immediately after the bend, a path is signposted on the left. You follow it downhill through woodland and then on a quiet road. At the bottom, you go right to the Café Rosemarie and then (as in walk 17b) walk on to Soll, or go back to the Scheffau gondola and catch the Kaiserjet.

## Walk 35: Top of Going (Astberg) to top Hoch Söll via Route 11 and 11a

**Difficulty:** Moderate, but long in distance

**Duration:** 6 hours

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**Note:** The Going lift is only open in high season from July onwards. This walk is normally an excellent long distance walk. You need to reach the Going lift by using the first Kaiserjet bus of the day, as you need to start the walk as early as possible. It is very useful to have a map with you for this walk.

Go right at the top of the Going lift (past a walk map), and after a while sharp uphill through a hotel, following route 9/11. On many signposts the “9” is more prominent than the “11”. You go through beautiful woodland. The signposting disappears at one point to just “60/61”, but then “11” appears again on the next signpost.

You pass Blinzalm then Hohenangeralm. You then go through the woods crossing two rivers. From here take the left fork (not always signposted) and it can be very muddy and difficult through more woodland to Bodenalm. From here the real problems can begin.

The previous very good route has been renumbered **11a**, but I never saw a signpost for it when I last did the walk, so followed the new route 11 by mistake. If you can find where 11a starts after Bodenalm and are aiming for Kirchberg, Brixen or HochBrixen, that would be my preferred route as it gives you lovely views over the Brixen Valley and was not muddy. Keep following 11a from Bodenalm. It eventually zigzags upwards to join route 96/99. There is quite a steepish bit just before it joins path 96/99, where it joins walk 32 (Brandstadl or Hartkaiser to HochBrixen and HochSöll).

If you follow route **11** from Bodenalm, be ready for mud. The next stretch of route 11 was the most unpleasant stretch I have ever walked in the Alps. A signpost (which I have seen nowhere else in the area) even warns you that you need proper walking boots! The path was exceptionally muddy even after a dry period. There were patches where my boots were completely engulfed in the mud. The path was on an angle, making keeping your feet even more difficult, with tree roots vertically across the path about an inch above the level of the path. The Tourist Office explained the matter by saying that the path had only been opened the week before I used it. However, someone in the hotel had the same experience as myself the following year. I haven't done this walk for several years now. The path eventually joins path 96, where you go left to HochBrixen and eventually HochSöll or right to Hartkaiser or Brandstadl. I think this new route has been introduced so that you can reach Brandstadl and Hartkaiser more easily.

# Soll Walks - Circuits

## **Walk 36: Anti-Clockwise Two Valley Half Circuit using Lift Pass and Walking (or buses and walking).**

**Difficulty:** Medium (but long in distance)

**Distance:** 12.2 miles / 19.3 kms. You need a lift pass for all the circuits. You can cut the distance by using the bus for some of the way.

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From the Soll village crossroads, walk straight on up to the gondola station – gentle uphill slope. (1.35k or 0.85 miles) Take the two leg gondola up to Hohe Salve. There are beautiful views at the top as far as the German border beyond Söll, and down to the Kitzbuhel Valley in the other direction, where you can see Kirchberg, Brixen and Westendorf. From the western side you can see Niederau and the top at Alpbach.

Next take the two stage gondola down to Hopfgarten. From there, walk to Westendorf (walk 23), then on to Brixen (walk 27), take the Brixen gondola to Hoch Brixen, and finally walk to HochSöll (walk 25), and back down to Söll (walk 15).

The length if walked all the way is 19.3k or 12.2 miles but you can use the bus for 6 of those miles if you wish, and you can get the gondola down from Hoch Soll to Soll cutting another 3.05 miles / 4.9k. (Buses from Hopfgarten were 10.27, 11.32 and 12.27, but check the timetables). It is better to go on a weekday if you are going to use the bus.

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## **Walk 37: Full Anti-Clockwise Two Valley Circuit using Lift Pass and Walking including Itter**

**Difficulty:** Medium (but long in distance)

**Distance:** 18.8 miles / 29.8 kms

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Follow walk 21 - Söll to Itter, then walk 22 Itter to Hopfgarten. From here follow walk 23 to Westendorf, walk 27 to Brixen , take the gondola up to HochBrixen and then walk 25 back to Hoch Söll. Walk down to Soll (walk15) or take the gondola.

Walks 21, 22, 23, 27, 25 & 15.

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## **Walk 38: Clockwise Two Valley Half Circuit using Lift Pass and Walking (or buses and walking)**

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** 9.25 miles / 15 kms approx

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Get the gondola up to Hoch Söll and then follow Walk 24 to Brixen; Walk 26 to Westendorf; and Walk 23b to Hopfgarten, and then get the 2 gondolas up to Hohe Salve and the 2 gondolas down to Söll.

Walks 24, 26, 23b.

## Walk 39: Full Clockwise Two Valley Circuit using Lift Pass and Walking including Itter

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** 15.75 miles / 25 kms approx

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As Walk 38 to Hopfgarten, following Walks 24, 26, 23b, then Walks 22b and 21b.

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## Walk 40: The Wilder-Kaiser Steig

**Difficulty:** Advanced

**Distance:** 12.6 miles (very approx)

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For this walk you should have the local map with you to find the starting point and the point where you want to leave the Wilder-Kaiser Steig. I haven't done this walk, but my friends have, as the photographs show, and they found it most enjoyable. They took the Kufstein bus getting off near Egerbach.

They had a little difficulty to find the start of the Wilder-Kaiser Steig. One said that they went through a "sort of industrial area". Another thought it was like a "military area". Both said there was a steady steep climb up the path at the start, but that it was worth it from then on.

The Wilder-Kaiser Steig goes well above the Hintersteinersee rising above 1200 metres. They left the path above Steiner Niederalm to come down into Scheffau, just in time to catch the last Kaiser Jet, arriving back in Söll about 6.30pm. You can continue further along the Steig as it is part of a long international route

It would be easier doing it the other way round starting at Steiner Niederalm or at Walleralm (which is easy to reach from Hintersteinersee - see Walleralm walk 43), and then catching the Kufstein to Soll bus on the main Kufstein road.

## Walk 41: Söll to Ellmau and Going and on to the Badesee

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** 8.25 miles / 14 kms approx. (9.5 miles to the Badesee swimming lake)

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You can walk all the way along the valley avoiding the car fumes of the main road.

Follow Walks 17 and then 28 and 29.

From Going, to reach Badesee, either

- a) walk down the main road along the river in the St Johann direction. After the Raffeisen Bank there is a path on the left, and it is then signposted all the way to Badesee (1.2 miles from Going). You can then walk round the lake starting in the carpark of Badesee and keeping left all the way. Walking round the lake adds a further 2.1 miles, and involves some uphill walking. At the top of the round the lake walk there is a lovely view over the lake.
- b) Walk down the main road in the St Johann direction on the right hand side. There is a 30 metre stretch with no pavement. Go diagonally right through a car park and you will find a wide bridge across the river. Follow the path through the woods to the end where you cross a small footbridge. Immediately on the left is an underpass to the Stranglwirt Hotel, where you can sometimes see the Lippizaner horses through the stable grill windows. Go to the left of the hotel and walk uphill, until you come to a road on the right direct to the Badesee lake.

You can get the Kaiserjet back from Badesee, which is its terminus, to Söll.

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## Walk 42: Soll to Westendorf

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** Varies

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Take the gondola up to Hoch Söll, and then follow Walks 24 and 26 to Westendorf (5.6miles /8.9 kms approx.)

or

Take the gondolas up to Hohe Salve, then the gondolas down to Hopfgarten and follow walk 23 (3.55 miles / 5.7kms approx)

or

Follow Walks 21, 22 and 23 all the way. (10.15 miles / 16.2kms approx)

## Walk 43: Scheffau to Hintersteinersee and then on to Walleralm on the Wilder-Kaiser Steig and back to Soll.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** 5.5 miles to Walleralm; 13.5 miles all the way back to Soll.

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Follow Walk 33 or 34 to Hintersteinersee.

From Hintersteinersee car park at the eastern end of the lake, take the path up to “Walleralm”. The path goes through woodland and is steep and tree rooted to start with, then becomes a wide path signposted all the way to Walleralm (2.5 miles from the lake). There are two café/restaurants at Walleralm. From here you could go right along the Wilder-Kaiser Steig to come down at Steiner Niederalm, or left towards the Kufstein Road.

To return from Walleralm to Hintersteinersee, you need to go back along the same route you came up for about a quarter of the way. When you come to a T junction, go right, and soon at a Y fork, take the left hand path. This brings you down to the western end of the lake.

You can then return to Soll using the second half of walk 34.

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## Walk 44: Brixen to Kirchberg or Kirchberg to Brixen

**Difficulty:** Medium – **Distance:** 3.4 miles / 5.5 kms to Brixen from Hoch Soll, then the same again to Kirchberg. Total 7 miles

Get the lift up to HochSoll. Follow Walk 24 to Hoch Brixen. Take the lift down to Brixen. At the bottom of the Brixen gondola, cross over the main road, and take the left pavement through the underpass. The path is well signposted with yellow signs and cycle path signs. At an early T-junction go right round the Ferien am Erlensee, over a bridge and then left round a children’s play area (signpost “Kirchberg 5½k”).

Keep to asphalted road past Brixen Station and follow the signs to Kirchberg. Toilets are above the underground car park below the church near the Hotel Metzgewirt. You can walk on to Schwarzee or even Kitzbuhel.

If you walk back from Kirchberg, it can be difficult finding the start of the path to Brixen. Go to Kirchberg railway station. Walk past it, and eventually you come to the first sign for Brixen.

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## Walk 45: Kirchberg to Schwarzee

**Difficulty:** Easy **Distance:** 3.6 miles (7miles / 9.6 kms in total Brixen to Schwarzee).

Schwarzee (meaning “black lake”) is a beautiful lake near Kitzbuhel, surrounded by woodland. Swimming is possible in the lake.

You can walk on from Kirchberg to Schwarzee. We often get the bus from the Brixen gondola to Kirchberg and start the walk from Kirchberg. You have a lovely riverside walk to start with, and then have beautiful views of the Kitzbuhelerhorn as you near the lake.

From the bus stop in Kirchberg, go left until you cross the river. Go down the steps on the right straight after the river, and follow the signs for “Kitzbuhel”.

## Walk 46: Round the Lake at Schwarzee

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 1.9 miles / 3 kms

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There is a very pleasant walk around the perimeter of this beautiful lake. You can reach the lake by bus, train or walking from either direction. There are seats all around the lake. There are beautiful views of the Lauberhorn and the Kitzbuhelerhorn.

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## Walk 47: Schwarzee to Kitzbuhel

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 2.8 miles / 4.47 kms

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You can continue to Kitzbuhel. It is well signposted. There are various routes, especially if you have a map with you. The easiest route without a map is along the main road where there is a good pavement, until you come to a path on the left leading straight to the beautiful town centre of Kitzbuhel.

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## Walk 48: Brandstadl to Söll direct

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 5.3 miles / 3.3 kms

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A tarmacked road virtually all the way makes this a boring walk, and not recommended for your feet. Go left out of the gondola station, and down to a major junction of paths. Go right at this junction. You can divert off the road for bits along path 11.

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## Walk 49: Circular - walking from Soll to Itter via Hoch Soll and Kraftalm and then back to Soll.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** 12 miles

From the village centre take the road between the Feldweibel and the Church. At the end, crossover to the left of the fire station, and take the road through Gansleit. After crossing the river, go right and immediately right again up a path alongside the river. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> carparking area go right below the chapel on the rock. Follow the toboggan run and signposts up to Hoch Soll. At Hoch Soll walk down Hexenwasser past the Stockalm Restaurant. Go straight on following a little path by a water channel, go left at the end under the ski lift cables. After 60 metres go right over a ford. Follow the zigzag path until you cross a farmyard. Go right after the farmyard, and almost immediately sharp left up a road, continuing until you reach Kraftalm (4.5miles).

Just before the Kraftalm Restaurant, follow the signpost on the right to "Itter 1¼ hr 70" down a grassy slope. Follow the ski run down, and it soon becomes a zigzag path. At the Scherzerhoff go right. Follow the road all the way down to Itter, which is route 70 on maps.

You will see a sign for "Schlossblick" (Castle View) at one point. This is an alternative, except that trees block the view until you get much nearer to Itter, and the views of the castle from the road



are better. This path goes uphill through woods, over a ford, and straight on where the wider track forks left. The path becomes narrow, going downhill, then widens again. At a road go right, and you can now get some views of the castle and Itter Church. At a junction, turn left into Itter (9miles). Then follow walk 21b back to Soll.

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### **Walk 50: Niederau to Hopfgarten.**

**Difficulty:** Easy. Beautiful views of Hohe Salve from a totally different perspective.

**Distance:** 6¼ miles

Take an early bus to Worgl Station, and then the bus to Niederau (the tourist office will give you the times). Take the Gondola up to the Markbachjoch, and the path to Hopfgarten via Penningdorfl is signposted all the way down. Following a map, it is path 20 then path 73. Take the lifts from Hopfgarten back to Hohe Salve.