

Söll Walks: Medium Walks

Walk 14: Söll to Hoch Söll via the Main Path – Route 9

Difficulty: Medium (all uphill, with one steep section of the path halfway up)

Distance: 3.05 miles / 4.9 kms

Walk up to the gondola station in Söll (1.35k or 0.85 miles). Go past the Gasthof Eisenmann. Go immediately right and the path begins (path 9).

At first big junction go left, and from then on the only path off is one on the right to the Wasserfall. Your path goes all the way to the Stockalm Restaurant and Hexenwasser.

Go round the Stockalm Restaurant. Take the path on the left in front of it up the children`s water feature (HexenWasser). You can then take the gondola back down to Söll or the gondola up to Hohe Salve.

Walk 14b: Söll to Hoch Söll via the road all the way up

Difficulty: Medium (nearly all uphill), with occasional vehicles passing you.

Distance: 3 miles

Walk to the gondola station and then up the road. Take the first right turn through a tunnel, and follow the road all the way up. The last bit is downhill to HochSöll.

Walk 14c: Söll to Hoch Söll via the other Route 9, the Toboggan Run

Difficulty: Medium (nearly all uphill)

Distance: 3.2 miles

Walk up to the gondola station and on up the road. Go straight on towards the church on the rock (Stampfanger Kapelle). Go right at the bend just after crossing the river. Go right before the Stampfanger Kapelle, passing beneath it to the right.

Follow the signs – the only confusing bits require you to go left at a fork, otherwise you would rejoin the road which you don`t want to do; go across the next road by a tunnel, and right at cottage number 7; and near the top a right fork.

Walk 15: HochSöll to Söll via the Main Path

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (all downhill)

Distance: 3.05 miles / 4.9 kms

To walk down to Söll, go down the childrens` water feature “Hexen Wasser” or “Witches Water”, past the restaurant “Stockalm” at the bottom, and then bear right and follow the same path (the left one of three paths) all the way down to the bottom gondola station. The path is steep on one stretch mid-way.

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Walk 15b: Hochsoll to Soll via the Road all the way

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (90% downhill) with occasional vehicles passing you.

Distance: 3 miles / 4.8 kms

To walk down to Söll, go down past the trout lake and up the hill towards Hexenwald. At the fork at the top, go right and follow the road all the way down to Söll.

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Walk 15c: HochSöll to Söll via the Toboggan Run

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (all downhill)

Distance: 3.2 miles / 5 kms

To walk down to Söll via the Winter toboggan run, go down underneath and then behind the Gasthof HochSöll. Almost immediately go left on a footpath, and it is easy to follow all the way down to Söll.

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Walk 16: Hohe Salve to HochSöll

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (all downhill)

Distance: 3.2 miles / 5 kms

Go to the left of Salvenbahn II (the lift to Hopfgarten) and follow a steepish gravelly wide path zig-zagging down (ignore a path off to the right) to Rigi where there is a restaurant Alpenhof Rigi. From Rigi, go left of the Winter chair lift and under it below the restaurant. At a junction of paths a sign post directs you to “Kraftalm / Itter” or “Hexenwasser/ HochSöll”.

The path winds downhill until it reaches the Kraftalm restaurant and the top of the Itter lift (rarely used now in the Summer). After Kraftalm, go past the lift station and under the chapel, following the “Hexenwasser” sign.

At a big junction you double back right (the road left goes straight on to Itter), go left through a farmyard, and continue until you come to Stockalm at the bottom of Hexenwasser. You go up the path along the water feature to the HochSöll gondola.

Walk 17: Söll to Scheffau Village

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (virtually level until last 15 minutes)

Distance: 4.17 miles / 6.67 kms

From the village centre cross roads take the road between the Feldweibel and the Church, past the Eggerwirt Hotel and the model railway. At the end of this road by the Fire Station, cross straight over and go down the Gansleit road which bears slightly left.

Take the path left under the main valley road (there is a huge bridge over the path), path signposted "Scheffau" (a stream runs on your left behind the trees), and go straight on under the Kufstein main road. You pass the solar panels (there is a seat here) where the well asphalted road curves right. Keep on the road following signs to "Scheffau". You pass a wood yard on your left. (17b turns off left at a bridge)

At a T junction (3 miles) go left to "Blaiken, Scheffau" and then over the bridge at the Pension Blaiken.

Turn left to "Dorf" which is Scheffau Village. (signposted "Dorf, Blaiken 40-51") The very quiet road goes steadily uphill for 15 minutes (uphill, but a good surface) and enters the village just below the church, by the bus stop, where the free Kaiserjet buses and the service buses turn round and stop.

Buses going in both directions turn and stop at the same stop so check that the bus is going in the direction you want.

Note: You can get the free bus or the service bus to Scheffau Village and walk back if you prefer, which is easier as there is no major uphill on the way back if you use walks 18 & 19a.

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Walk 17b: Soll to Scheffau Village via the Café Marie

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (virtually level)

Distance: 4.2 miles / 6.8 kms

Follow the same route as walk 17 to the woodyard. Continue on until you come to a turn off on your left over a wooden bridge (there is usually a seat and a table at this point). Go left over the bridge.

Go sharp right after the small chapel. The path becomes a road. Keep straight on to a T junction. Go left. At the Café Marie go right, and follow this path into Scheffau. You come into Scheffau behind the church.

Walk 17c: Söll to the Scheffau Gondolabahn

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (virtually level)

Distance: 3.8 miles / 6 kms

Similar to Walk 17 until Pension Blaiken. From the Söll village centre cross roads take the road between the Feldweibel and the Church, past the Hotel Eggerwirt. At the end of this road by the Fire Station, cross straight over and go down the Gansleit road which bears slightly left.

Take the path left under the main valley road (a huge bridge over the path), path signposted “Scheffau” (a stream runs on your left behind the trees) and go straight on under the Kufstein main road. You pass the solar panels (there is a seat here) where the well asphalted road curves right. Keep on the road following signs to “Scheffau”. You pass a wood yard on your left. (17b turns off left at a bridge)

At a T junction (3 miles) go left to “Blaiken, Scheffau” and then over the bridge at the Pension Blaiken.

Go straight on just a bit, then right through a carpark before the Apartment Barbara, through the tunnel under the road, over the river and through the car park to the Scheffau gondola lift marked “Ellmau & Brandstadl Bahn”. The gondola operating in Summer is the furthest one from you.

Walk 17d: Söll to the Scheffau Gondolabahn via Schattseitweg

Difficulty: Moderate – uphill and downhill stretches

Distance: 4.2 miles / 6.7 kms

This is part of the Söll Tourist Office circuit. You start at the carpark opposite the bottom station of the Söll gondola – there is a stone structure in the carpark with “Schattseitweg” written on it. The route is signposted all the way to Blaiken, Scheffau.

After going under the main road, you go right until you come to the Pension Blaiken. Go straight on a bit, then right through a carpark before the Apartment Barbara, through the tunnel under the road, over the river and through the car park to the Scheffau gondola lift marked “Ellmau & Brandstadl Bahn”.

With a map, you can get right to the Scheffau gondola without going down into Blaiken.

Walk 18a: In Reverse from Scheffau Village (Dorf) to Söll

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy

Distance: 4.17 miles / 6.67 kms

Go downhill down the road behind the village centre bus stop to “Seebach Blaiken”. At the bottom turn right, and soon right again. Keep on this road now. The route is signposted all the way back to Söll .

By the Solar Panels, you have three choices to get back to Söll (19a, b or c – 19a has a slight uphill gradient. 19b and 19c have quite a bit of uphill walking).

Note: If you get the bus to Scheffau Dorf you can walk back to Söll with virtually no uphill (walks 18a and 19a).

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Walk 18b: An Alternative Route Scheffau Village to the Solar Panels and Söll (via the Café Rosemarie)

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy

Distance: 4.2miles / 6.7kms

Go behind the church from the main road in Scheffau, and follow the sign “Söll Dorf 2½ h”. The road becomes a gravel track going downhill. After an S bend you cross a river and go left at the junction by the Café Rosemarie and rightish at the next junction (signposted “Seebach 9-14” etc). The road soon becomes a track again with a small white chapel in front of you. Go left at the chapel (signpost says “Erlach 651m”), and right after the bridge, and you are now on route 18a to the Solar Panels.

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Walk 18c: An Alternative Route Scheffau Village to Söll via Schattseitweg

Difficulty: Moderate – with some uphill stretches

Distance: 4.2miles / 6.7kms

Go downhill down the road behind the village centre bus stop to “Seebach Blaiken”. At the bottom turn right by the Gasthof Blaiken. Go over the river and ignore the cycle sign right to “Soll” (which is 18a). You come to an underpass, where you go left. You go uphill on path 40, and right at the top along path 54. Go left at the Haus am Wildbach, and the path becomes 55 Schattseitweg, which is now signposted all the way back to Soll Gondola Station.

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Walk 19a: From the Solar Panels to Söll (the Flattest Route)

Difficulty: Easy **Duration:** 40-50 minutes

The easiest and flattest (there is a slight uphill gradient) is to bear left at the Solar Panels, follow the path along the river, a path which eventually goes under the two main roads to Gansleit where you meet a small road. Go right here. At the bridge over the river go straight on through the suburb of Gansleit. When you reach the road by the fire station, go straight across towards the church and the village centre.

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Walk 19b: From the Solar Panels to Söll (the direct route over the Morsee Woods)

Difficulty: Moderate (an uphill section through the woods) **Duration:** 1 hour

Go straight on over the bridge by the Solar Panels. Take a track straight on. It isn't signposted from this direction, but it is a recognised path. The farm track goes to the right of a barn and follows the same line as the pylons and telephone wires. You pass a farm on your left, the Schernhof.

Cross the main road and go straight ahead up the footpath into the woods, which is also part of walk 9bi. The path climbs upwards through the woods and comes out on the road by Morsee. There is a very short bit (30 metres/yards) where water sometimes cuts a deepish vertical channel in the middle of the path, which can make it difficult.

This was repaired in 2009, but can recur if there has been heavy rain. Once past Morsee you meet a road. Walk left down the road back to Söll. The pavement is in the right side of the road.

Note: You will have to cross the very busy main Kufstein road.

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Walk 19c: Solar Panels to Söll via the Energy Walk and Morsee

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Note: This is a bit longer and more attractive. It is also described in walk 9bii.

Turn right after the bridge by the solar panels and walk alongside the river. There are several seats. Keep to the path over 2 minor roads with the river on your right the whole time. A signpost "Söll 55" takes you left under a tunnel and immediately after the tunnel the path goes right towards a bus stop and the Gasthof Oberstegen. You can, as an alternative, go to the end of the Energie Weg footpath and cross the main Kufstein road by the Gasthof Oberstegen,

Go left up the minor road to the left of the Gasthof Oberstegen just a few metres, then take the path on the left "Morsee, Söll ½ hour". You pass a games alley on your right and then across a field and through a gate. Go left where you join another path and right at a signpost (it is all well signposted). Go over the road by a house and the path goes uphill. At the next road, go left "Söll 15 mins 55". At next road go right and Morsee is 100 metres/yards on. Go round the lake and down the road to Söll.

Walk 20: Scheffau Gondola to Söll

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Varies

Go left diagonally in front of older gondola bahn station and follow the footpath to the right over the river and under the main road. Go left at the first road you meet, and go right soon after where it is signposted to Soll. You now on walk 18a back to Söll. It is signposted all the way, with three choices from the solar panels (see 19a, b, & c).

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Walk 21: Söll to Itter (and then on to Walk 22: Hopfgarten if you want)

Difficulty: Moderate (gently undulating with an uphill pavement stretch before Itter)

Distance: 3.8 miles / 6 kms

Itter is a very quiet village on a plateau, with a castle in the background once owned by Niki Lauder. The castle was used as a POW camp during World War II for VIP prisoners. It is now a private house so you cannot get into its grounds, but you can go right up to the main gate and the moat around the castle.

Note: You can also get the Worgl bus to Itter on weekdays from the Söll bus station, (but note on the timetable that not all buses to Worgl go up to Itter village) and then just walk the second bit mainly downhill to Hopfgarten where you can catch the gondola back to Hohe Salve if you have a lift pass. Alternatively you can just walk back from Itter to Söll. There are toilets in Itter behind the Itter Tourist Office, but these might only be open when the Tourist Office is open.

From the Söll village centre cross roads go towards the bandstand (the road between the Postwirt and the Feldweibel Hotels). Go left at the bandstand and straight up the hill ignoring several roads on the left (pavement on left for a bit).

The road goes past the Hotel Greil and then uphill. At the little chapel on the left (Pirchmooser Kapelle), turn left (cycle sign to "Worgl"). The path goes slightly downhill. (This route avoids walking by the car fumes along the direct cycle path Söll to Itter).

At the main road by the Jausenstation Lederer go right along the main road on the cycle path until you come to a side road on the right where there are then two alternatives:

a) This is the best route, but you have to cross the busy main road. Cross over just after the side road goes off to your right. There is a narrow path on the other side of the main road (not visible before you cross over). Then follow the "Wanderweg Itter" sign along the path to the right of the farmhouse (Strasserhof). The path goes under the Itter gondola cable (the gondola now operates rarely in Summer). At the road, turn left and you have met up with route b). A signpost reads "Jacobsweg, Tirol and Itter".

or

b) To avoid crossing the very busy main road go down the road on your right to "Steinbach", left under the underpass to the gondola station, right across the gondola station car park to a road. Then go left up the road until it meets a). This route goes downhill, then uphill, so has more gradient than alternative a).

The road now undulates, going uphill a bit, then gently downhill, through a modern village, under a ski bridge etc. At the end of the road, at a T road junction, go left uphill on the pavement on the far side of the road to the village square.

The distance is 6.09k/3.8 miles so far to the centre of Itter. You can walk back, get the bus back, or you can walk on to Hopfgarten (Walk 22).

An alternative route to Itter is to walk up from HochSöll to Kraftalm. Just before Kraftalm, on the right, is a path, starting on grass, downhill to Itter. A map would be useful for this route. .

Walk 21b: Reverse Itter to Söll

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy

Distance: 3.8 miles / 6 kms

From the centre of Itter, take the road to the left of the Itterwirt. This is the feeder road down to the main valley road. Half way down, after the Edelweiss and the Fire Station, take a road to the right (Schwendter Weg) signposted "Söll ", and follow it all the way to where it splits at a sort of T junction in sight of the Itter gondola station. You can now either:

a) Take the path right which has seats on it, and goes under the Itter gondola cables, and on to the main road. At the main road bear right walking along the path on the grass verge for a bit, and cross just after the speed sign where a side road comes in on the left, which is route b).

or

b) An alternative to avoid crossing the busy main road is to go left at the T junction mentioned above and cross the car park to the Itter gondola lift station. Take the underpass below the gondola station under the main road and turn right. The road goes uphill until it comes back to the main road. You have now joined route a).

Now stay left along the cycle path to the Jausenstation Lederer.

From the Jausenstation Lederer, the path goes slightly leftwards away from the main road and slightly uphill (this route avoids the car fumes of the main road). Go right at the next junction by a chapel, the Pirschmooser Kapelle, and walk down into Söll .

Walk 22: Itter to Hopfgarten

Difficulty: Moderate to Easy (largely downhill)

Distance: 2.8 miles / 4.5 kms

Note: You can get the bus from Söll to Itter and walk on to Hopfgarten, or you can walk to Itter by Walk 21. The walk from Itter to Hopfgarten is mainly downhill, after one gentle uphill incline early on. The first part of this walk is not shown on some tourist office maps but is an easy and fully recognised path through the woods to the hamlet of Hacha. It is marked on the Mayr maps. The second part of the walk is on road, but there are normally very few vehicles.

From the village centre, go back towards the shop and Gasthof Itterwirt, and go right up the road marked with a no through road sign "Lindweg". After about 100 metres take a path on the right (you might see a sign "Hopfgarten 50 mins").

Continue beyond the sports centre (which is on your right) and take path going left to Hopfgarten. (if you take path to your right round the sports centre you can get back to the centre of Itter)

The path to Hopfgarten goes gently uphill, through the woods, and then reaches a farm and a quiet asphalted road. From here on it is all downhill into Hopfgarten. There are no pavements, but there are few vehicles on the road. You finally come to a T junction in Hopfgarten.

If you go left here you pass the magnificent church on the way to the Gondola Station for the ride up to Hohe Salve. If instead, you go left and immediately right at this junction, passing to the right of Bergrettung building, you get down to the main shopping street and the buses to Westendorf. At the main shopping street, go left. You pass a bus stop just at the end on the right hand side, where you can get a bus to Westendorf or the Brixen cable car if you want to (buses normally 10.27, 11.37, but check the timetables and check whether the bus stop is operational – when there are events on in the main street, the stop is moved elsewhere).

Go left at the main road by the railway station, then in front of the Tourist Office, then left beyond the multi-storey car park. (10.57k/6.6 miles all the way from Söll)

You can now get the 2 gondola lifts back to Hohe Salve and then the 2 lifts down to Söll, or you can walk on to Westendorf if you want (Walk 23).

Walk 22b: Reverse Hopfgarten to Itter

Difficulty: Moderate (largely uphill)

Distance: 2.8 miles / 4.5 kms

You can reach Hopfgarten by getting the two gondolas up to Hohe Salve and then the two gondolas down to Hopfgarten. From the Hopfgarten Gondolabahn, go right until you come to the large two domed church.

Keep on the same street. After a fountain and the “Begrettung” building, take the road on the right. The road goes uphill. A short way up is a sign “Badlfeld” and then on a bend a signpost “70 Schlossblick”. The next sign says “1 Itter”.

Keep to the road all the time – don’t take the path to the right. The road goes steadily uphill. There are no pavements, but not much traffic. After about ½ mile you reach houses at the hamlet of Hacha. Go straight on (“Itter 20 mins”) along Hachaweg which is shown on the Mayr maps but not on some local maps.

It is a very good footpath, mainly downhill now, through the woods. At a junction by the Sports Centre take the path right, skirting the woods. At the end of the path, go left to the Gasthof Itterwirt, and left again into the village centre. Check the timetable for the buses back before you leave Soll, if you intend to return to Soll by bus.

From Itter to Söll follow Walk 21b.

Walk 23: Hopfgarten to Westendorf

Difficulty: Moderate, with quite a lot of uphill walking.

Distance: 3.55 miles / 5.7 kms

Note: If you want to get the bus to Westendorf, go downwards from the gondola station in Hopfgarten, right after the multi-storey carpark, in front of the Hopfgarten Tourist Office, then right at the main road and the stop is at the bottom of the first road on the right- buses are at 10.27 and 11.37 weekdays, but check the timetables from the Söll Tourist Office beforehand).

Walking to Westendorf it is a mixture of asphalt surfaces and woodland paths. Go immediately left after you come out of the gondola station up a side road to "Lindrain". The road goes steadily uphill for about 30 minutes.

Where road starts to double back on itself, take the path to the right through the woods – signposted "Westendorf 2 hours". Follow the path down through the woods, through a vehicle barrier (ignore the path off on the right) until you reach the main road. Cross it very carefully as the traffic goes very fast here around the bend, so it can be quite dangerous.

Go uphill along the road straight opposite, for about 15 minutes. The road becomes a farm track which goes round to the left of a farmhouse. Immediately you reach the side of the farm go left across the grass (signpost on a tree, not always visible on a sunny day, saying "Westendorf"). The path across the field often looks untrodden. 50 yards/metres across the field you can easily see the entrance to the woods. The path then climbs up through the woods for about 15 minutes, then goes over a railway tunnel, round the back of a barn, and left through a farmyard to an asphalt road (very little traffic). Turn right onto that road.

Follow the road for an hour through Au, past the Auerhof Restaurant (good for a coffee break) to Westendorf. It is virtually flat all the way once you are on the tarmac road.

Where the road becomes impassable for cars, at a cross roads by the swimming pool, go straight across along a cycle track with a stream on your right.

At a T junction at the end, go left towards the village of Westendorf, and then first right to the Westendorf gondola station, or straight on to the village centre.

The Westendorf Gondola is on the lift pass, so you can go up and see the top of Westendorf. There is a café/restaurant and toilets at the top and some very good views. The Westendorf gondola is long in two sections (you don't get out), so be careful that you have time to get back to Söll. For the best views at the top (Talkaser), go left out of the gondola station, and follow the path upwards to a new viewing point where you get marvellous views over Brixen and Hohe Salve.

Walk 23b: Westendorf to Hopfgarten

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.55 miles / 5.7 kms

Note: You can get the bus from Westendorf to Hopfgarten – to get to the bus stop go straight down the road opposite the church to a cross roads. Your stop is on the far corner. Buses were 13.42 & 14.37 on weekdays, but check the timetables beforehand.

To walk to Hopfgarten

a) From the centre of Westendorf with your back to the church, take the road to the left – Dorfstrasse – then go right down a narrow road just before “Telsenheim” where cars are banned, signposted “Neuhaushof 40 meter”.

or

b) From the Westendorf Gondola Station take the road straight ahead. At the end go left and immediately right down a cycle path signposted “Neuhaushof 40 meter”.

At cross paths, go straight on past the “Freibad Westendorf” (swimming pools) on your right. Keep on this road which bears right (not the left fork). You pass a pond on your right. Signposts say “Aunerhof/Hopfgarten 4.3k”.

You go through woodland and past the Aunerhof café (good for a tea or coffee break), straight past Haus Auner-Christie. You go left at an easy to miss sign by a house (Thaneshof) with a bell tower – your route is marked “Wanderweg Hopfgarten”. You pass to the left of a barn and then go round the back of it down a narrow path with a field on your right and a slope down on your left.

The path goes downhill through woodland. When you come out of the woods, go diagonally right to go to the right of the farmhouse (the path across the field is often not visible as a path). The path becomes a road and goes down to the main road. Cross it very carefully, as the traffic is very fast at this point, towards a bridge. Go left straight after the bridge.

Don't take the left fork half way along. The path goes upwards for about 8 minutes until you meet a road. Go left and follow the road down (don't take a left fork or a right fork) to the Hopfgarten gondola station (to the right at the end of the road).

Walk 24: Söll or Hoch Söll to Filzalmsee and Hoch Brixen, with the possibility of going on to Westendorf (walk 26) or to Kirchberg (walk 44) and then on to Schwarzsee (walk 45)

Difficulty: Moderate – mostly uphill

Distance: 3.4 miles / 5.4 kms

Note: A largely steady uphill walk on good paths from Hoch Söll to Filzalmsee and the Hoch Brixen gondola. You can go down on the Brixen gondola which is on the Söll lift pass, and then any walking is on the flat from Brixen to Westendorf or Brixen to Kirchberg, on the asphalted surfaces of a cycle/walking path. Whichever of the two directions you choose there are lovely views throughout the Brixen Valley.

The lake at Filzalmsee is a good place to stop and picnic. There are seats all round the lake and an excellent play area for children. If you are energetic you can pedal to raise a model of Neptune from the lake. Hohe Salve towers right above you.

From the village crossroads, take the road between the souvenir shop and the bank. Cross straight over at the big roundabout and walk straight on up to the gondola station – gentle uphill slope -1.35k or 0.85 miles.

Take the gondola up to Hoch Söll. From Hoch Söll gondola station, take path uphill. It goes up steadily for about 30 minutes going round the left side of Hohe Salve.

a) At a fork, take the left hand path (the right hand path also takes you to exactly the same place at Hoch Brixen, but that path is the better one to use on the way back because of the gradients). The left path snakes downhill for a bit and leads you past the Siller Alm on a corner (often music there in the afternoon). You keep on this path all the way past the artificial lake Filzalmsee (on your right, but raised so it is not visible as a lake from the path), to the gondola station at Hoch Brixen.

or

b) If you have taken the right hand path at the fork, it goes steadily uphill for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. At a fork, you take the smaller path straight on (where the main path doubles back towards the right). Your path goes on uphill for a short stretch and then downhill towards the lake, which you pass on its right before joining up with path a).

5.4k/ 3.4miles from Hoch Söll to Filzalmsee where there are seats around and 5.5k/3.5miles to the gondola station. Take the gondola down to Brixen. From here use Walk 26 to Westendorf or Walks 44 and 45 to Kirchberg and Schwarzsee.

Walk 25: Hoch Brixen, Filzalmsee to Hoch Söll

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.4 miles / 5.4 kms

From Hoch Brixen to Hoch Söll every one has to walk (the only alternative is to catch the bus back from Brixen to Hopfgarten and get the gondolas up to Hohe Salve). Go left out of the gondola station at Hoch Brixen. Follow the signs to Filzalmsee and HochSöll . There are two almost parallel routes:

a) At Filzalmsee go to the left of the lake and follow the path upwards to the right and through a gate (99). After about 20 minutes the path goes downhill and eventually joins with b), which comes in from the right. The path from here to Hoch Söll is mainly downhill.

or

b) Go to the right of the lake and follow path 51. This is mainly flat until a quite steep uphill stretch (about 30 minutes) just after an inn (Silleralm where there is sometimes music in the afternoons) on a corner. It then joins the other path and is mainly downhill to Hoch Söll.

You can now get the lift down to Söll or walk down, which adds another 4.9k/3.05miles, following any of the routes 15, 15b or 15c.

Walk 26: Brixen to Westendorf

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: 2.2 miles / 3.5 kms

Take the gondola down to Brixen. At the bottom gondola station at Brixen, cross over the main road, go straight down the road ahead, but don't use the left hand pavement as you can't get off it until well round the corner and you want to go right after the underpass. Now keep straight on this route all the way to the centre of Westendorf.

The path is almost completely on the level on a good surface. The path is also a cycle path, and occasional vehicles go along the stretch before the pavement starts. The slopes on your right are beautiful and there are rows of elegant deciduous trees on your left. You start to pass houses (Bichling) before you enter Westendorf. Don't take the path on the left signposted "Waldweg Westendorf". You turn left at a crossroads (a pavement café, the Hotel Austria and a garage) to reach the centre of Westendorf and the church.

From the church, if you want to reach the Westendorf gondola station, which is on the same lift pass as Söll, turn next left and keep on to the gondola station (another ¼ mile).

You can take the bus from Brixen to Westendorf. However, the bus stop is in the gondola car park and it can be difficult to attract the attention of the driver on the main road. If there is time, it is better to walk right along the pavement towards Westendorf about 200yds/metres to the next bus stop.

You can also get the bus back to the Brixen gondola station from Westendorf. From Westendorf you can walk on to Hopfgarten (route 23b) or get the bus to Hopfgarten. .

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Walk 27: Westendorf to Brixen

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: 2.2 miles / 3.5 kms

By bus from Westendorf to the Brixen Gondola go down the road opposite the church to a crossroads. The bus stop for Brixen is a few metres down the road to the right. Ask to be told when you reach the Brixen Gondola (just after an S bend and with a footbridge over the road for winter skiers). If you go too far, it is a level and easy walk back from the centre of Brixen to the gondola station.

To walk from Westendorf to the Brixen Gondola is 3.5k/2.2miles. With your back to the church, go right along the main street and turn right at the cross roads (a garage on the left and a pavement café on the right) signposted "Bickling" and "Brixen". Keep on this road for quite a distance, with beautiful hillside views to the left, until you see the second underpass on your left. Take that straight to the Brixen Gondola. Take the lift up to Hoch Brixen, where there is also a café/restaurant.

Walk 28: Scheffau Village to Ellmau and on to Going (Walk 29)

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.5 miles / 5.4 kms

Note: This route avoids the car fumes of the main road. You can reach Scheffau Village by bus or by walks 17 or 17b).

Go up the road from the Scheffau village centre bus stop round the bend to the left of the hotel, Gasthof Weberbauer and, just before the “Maikirche”, take the first right towards “Oberfeld” and “Chalet Heidi”. Then take the first right again following the signs “Zum Kneipp Rundweg” and “Oberfeld 8-24” “9”. You pass the Pension Walrand, then go right over a bridge.

You go through what looks like a barn at the right at the Pension Eisenmann (you might think you are trespassing through private property, but it is an official path). Go up the toboggan run by the river. After a short distance (about ½ mile) cross a small bridge on your right to “Auwald Ellmau 9”, go up the steps, and on upwards for about 5 minutes.

Go right where a small path comes in from the left (it can be muddy from here for a short distance). Go straight on, and bear right at a Y junction by a wood pit. You eventually come to some houses, then pass the Gasthof Fohrenhof, and turn left by a signpost which says “Auwald 14-36” to avoid the car fumes of the main road. At a T junction, by the woods, go right. Go left over a bridge (by a mirror) before you reach the main road, and immediately take the path to the right of the house.

Go over a second bridge and roughly straight on. Go right at a road and immediately left, then immediately bear right at a fork. You have very good views over Ellmau across the golf course. At a junction with carports in front of you, go straight across (ignore the “Ellmau” sign pointing right). You pass the Kaiserbad Sports Centre on your left.

There are seats after the Sports Centre with a fine view of Ellmau and the mountains. At a T-junction go right, and then straight on with the golf course on both sides of you, through a tunnel* and you are in the centre of Ellmau. To reach the funicular is another 15 minutes. _.

Walk 28b: Ellmau to Scheffau

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.5 miles

Take the road out of Ellmau to the golf course. The road goes over the main valley road, and, after the Kaiserbad, go right down a footpath, over a small bridge, straight across at a crossroad of paths, over another bridge and across a meadow. Go right at a sign “Auwald 10min, then immediately left on cycle path. At another little bridge go right, then over another bridge and uphill along the road. Take the 1st left, signposted “Auwald”. At a sign “Scheffau 1½h” go right, and at the end of the road right again. Follow the signs to “Horngach” as the road goes steadily uphill. After Horngach, the road becomes a wide path, then an uphill footpath into the woods. It is steep here in parts and can be muddy. At a fork, go right (a sign “9” is on a tree about 20 yards ahead). (Don’t go up the very steep left hand path). Go left where the path forks, and down a windy path with steps and railings. The path and steps here can be quite slippery. Turn left at the bottom onto the toboggan run. Go through a barn, over a bridge and left up the road. At the end, go left and left again into Scheffau.

Walk 29: Heading into Going (from Scheffau –walk 28) without going into the centre of Ellmau

Difficulty: An easy and pretty route.

Distance: – 45 minutes

After passing the Kaiserbad* (see walk 28) the road does an “S”. Then at the T junction, turn left, and almost immediately take a path right behind the golf course. This path eventually reaches a road. Go left uphill for about 50 metres. A wide track on the right goes into the woods and soon comes to a crossroad of paths. Go straight across past several houses (on your left), over a footbridge, and follow the path downhill, a path which eventually becomes a road. When you get within sight of vehicles on the main valley road, cross over diagonally left and follow the pavement under that main road, right to the centre of Going. .

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Walk 29b: Heading into Going from the centre of Ellmau

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: 35 – 45 minutes

Go left when you reach the main street in Ellmau, and take the right fork at the end, and continue to the Going chairlift on your right, and eventually the centre of Going taking about 25-30 minutes overall, mainly on the flat with a slight downhill into Going. The Going chairlift operates from July onwards. .

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Walk 30: From Hartkaiser, the top of the Ellmau Gondola to Brandstadl (Hoch Scheffau). The Panoramaweg goes through the woods.

Difficulty: Medium (continually uphill after the first bit)

Distance: 1.7 miles

At the top of the gondola, at Hartkaiser, go right down the path right below the main children`s area. At the first big junction the right turn is to walk back down to Ellmau. You can go:

a) Either straight on up a path for the panoramic route to Brandstadl (Panoramaweg 6) (not difficult, but steepish at times and mainly uphill). This route gives you panoramic views over the valley. You eventually reach a big crossroad of paths just after you go under a small lake (Tanzbodensee). Take the path right, uphill to Brandstadl.

or (but not so interesting)

b) Keep left on the main wide path. Go straight on at the first junction, and you have views over the Kirchberg Valley. Eventually you reach a big crossroad of paths just after a small lake (Tanzbodensee). Take the path ahead of you uphill to the Brandstadl gondola. This route is steadily uphill all the way, after the initial stretch downhill.

It can take a good 15 minutes on the gondola down to the valley bottom, so leave plenty of time if you are trying to catch the Kaiserjet bus back to Söll . Only the Kaiserjet comes right to the gondola valley station. The afternoon Kaiserjet is sometimes very full by the time it reaches here. The service bus stays on the main road, but does call at Scheffau Dorf (Village).

Walk 31: Top of Scheffau Gondola (Brandstadl) to top of Ellmau Funicular (Hartkaiser)

Difficulty: Easy **Distance:** 1.7 miles

Go leftwards when you leave the gondola at Brandstadtl, and then to the right of the Winter chairlift. The path soon splits with a narrow path off to the left. You have 2 alternatives, but both end up at the same place:-

- a) Keep to the main wide path (11) past the Tanzbodenalm. You reach a junction of paths.
- b) Take the narrow path off on the left. This narrower path goes through the woods, meeting the main path several times. Eventually you have to join the main path and reach the junction of paths.

You now have 2 further alternatives:-

- a) (Panoramaweg 6) – at the junction of paths, take the path under the small lake (Tanzbodensee), or better still, go round the lake anticlockwise, and leave the lake at the gate at the far end to rejoin the Panoramaweg. On a sunny day you can get wonderful reflection photos of the mountains and cloud formations in the lake. We call it “reflection lake”.
You then follow the Panoramaweg through the woods. It is mainly downhill in this direction. When you reach the “giants` chairs” you have rejoined the main path.
- b) Your path goes round to the right of the small lake (Tanzbodensee). It then goes steadily downhill with views over the Kirchberg Valley. Ignore the first a path up to the left which goes towards a ski lift, and then, at a Y junction, ignore a path off on the right which goes down to Ellmau. You soon reach the “giants` chairs” and have met the Panoramaweg.

From the “Giants` Chairs” you go uphill 100 metres or so on the wide main path to the Hartkaiser gondola. Better still, however, is to go into the children`s area “Ellmi`s World”. You can either continue on the path behind the “Giants` Chairs”, or, on the main path up to Hartkaiser, take the first path on the right up through the trees – the trees talk to the children in German! Beware also of water sprays from goblins in lakes!

Ellmi`s World is a children`s play area with all sorts of educational, water and climbing opportunities for children. It is well worth going round. Many weatherproof educational books are on display of animals, flowers and rocks, with the writing in English as well as German.

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Walk 32: Top of Scheffau Gondola to top of Brixen Gondola then on to Hoch Söll

Difficulty: Easy (undulating but no steep uphill bits) (mainly downhill in this direction)

Distance: 3.7 miles (or 7.25 miles back to Hoch Söll)

From the top of the Brandstadt Gondola at Scheffau, walk down on the main path towards the left past Tanzbodenalm. At a big junction of paths* take the path in front of you slightly to the right signposted "Aualm/HochBrixen 2 ½ hours" (not the path sharp right which becomes a road all the way down to Söll). Then, quite soon, at a split, take the main path right (don't take the path off to the left which goes to a farmhouse and a ski lift).

Your path goes up at first. At a cattle grid keep on the main path signposted "Eibergalm 99/11". Ignore the right path to "HochBrixen" unless you want to go via the Jochstubensee, a small mountain lake which is worth a diversion (see walk 32c). The main path then undulates then goes gently downhill. You get excellent views of Westendorf and of Hohe Salve in front of you, and also of Kirchberg.

At a big junction you double back on yourself (only go straight on if you want to go down into Brixen itself - signposted "Buchau"). To get to HochBrixen and Söll, you take a sharp right here at this junction doubling back on yourself, signposted "HochBrixen 99". From there on, it is path 99 zigzagging all the way to Hoch Brixen. Then follow Hoch Brixen to Hoch Söll (Walk 25).

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Walk 32b: From Hartkaiser at top of funicular to the top of the Brixen Gondola

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 4.7miles (or 8.25miles back to Hoch Söll)

At the top of the gondola at Hartkaiser, go right below the children's play area. At the first big junction the right turn is to walk back down to Ellmau and straight on is the Panoramaweg. You keep left on the main wide path. This goes steadily uphill.

Go straight on at the first junction, and eventually go left at a big junction of paths* signposted "Aualm/HochBrixen 2 ½ hours", and then quite soon take the path right at a split.

You have now joined walk 32.

Walk 32c: Jochstubensee

Difficulty: A good path, but quite steep approached from the Brandstadl side, but less steep approached from the Brixen side.

Duration: To the lake from the main path from Brandstadl to Hoch Brixen 30-40mins.

Jochstubensee is a pretty lake up on the right – you can get up there in 30-40 minutes, but the path up is quite steep on the Scheffau/Ellmau to Hoch Brixen approach. The path to the lake is the first significant path off on the right and it is signposted to “Jochstubensee”. You can walk round the lake, and then go down a path on the far side (which is less steep) to rejoin the main path to Hoch Brixen again. You can also take a more difficult cross county route from the lake down to Hoch Brixen (path 99 on maps).

There is a restaurant by the lake (open high season) and seating all round the lake. The diversion to Jochstubensee and a walk around the lake could add up to an hour on your time.