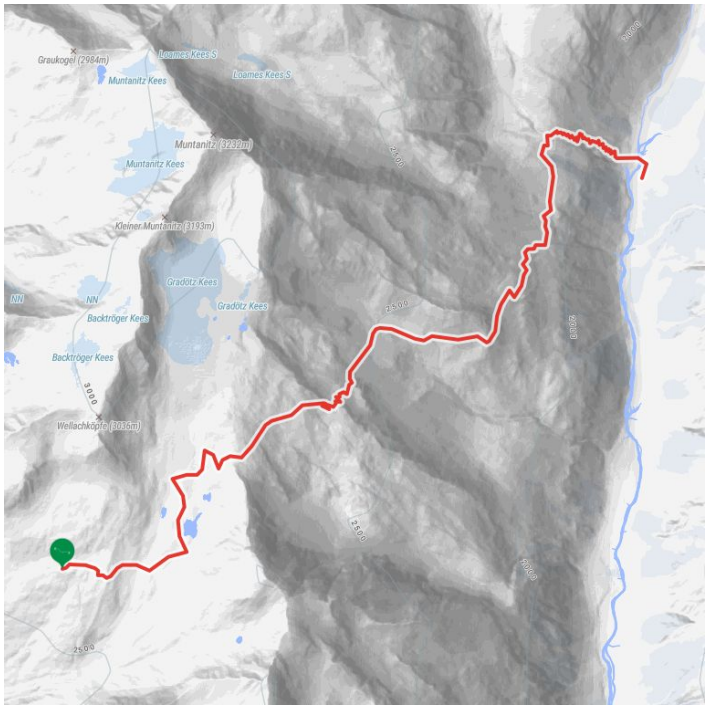
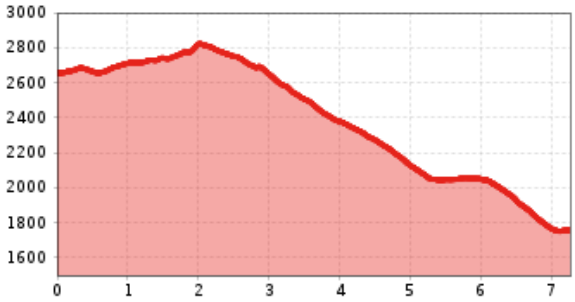
Eagle Walk Stage O7: Sudetendeutsche Hütte - Kalser Tauernhaus

This “Glockner Loop” segment of the Eagle Walk offers the best of Granatspitz Mountains as it skirts glaciers, summits a significant notch in the Hohe Tauern Range, drops down tussock slopes and delivers lake views, all while under the watchful guise of majestic snow and ice-crowned Großglockner Peak. From Sudetendeutsche Hut, the trail skirts Gradötz Glacier and ascends 2,848-metre Gradötz Notch, before dropping down into Dorfertal Valley to Kalser Tauernhaus Lodge. Once there, you either rest and play for the day, or, if you are up for the extra effort, take the one-hour detour for Dorfersee Lake, an aquatic gem wrapped in gorgeous scenery.



Altitude profile



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The most important at a glance

distance	altitude meters uphill	altitude meters downhill	total walking time
7.5 km	300 m	1200 m	4 h

highest point	difficulty
2828 m	average

fitness:

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

technique:

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

starting point: Sudetendeutsche Hütte
destination point: Kalser Tauernhaus
best season: JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP

Gpx file

download>

Interactive map

open>

Description

trail description: From Sudetendeutsche Hut, walk past the memorial cross and the tiny lake, heading uphill along grassy slopes and mossy hollows to the outlets of Gradötzkees Glacier, where you will find another tiny lake, a jewel cradled in a talus bowl, a glacial cirque created in eons past. Be sure to note the forces of glaciation. Now follow the trail as it heads upward towards Gradötzsattel Col (elev. 2,826m), before dropping down to so-called Bloipalfen (elev. 2,684m). From there, the trail descends over meadows with rocky outcrops and jagged cliffs. At an elevation of about 2,500 metres, Silesia Trail branches off to the left. If you've got time, take this nice and short detour for rocky and jagged Muntanitzschneid, offering dramatic views of the surrounding peaks. The Eagle Walk continues to the right and eventually reaches Muntanitzbach Creek, that is unbridged and difficult to negotiate even in dry periods. When the water is flowing at full volume, the crossing might require a slippery, boots off, knee-high fording. Slightly above Ochsenalm Alpine pasture, the trail rounds the spine of Muntanitzschneid. The trail is well-defined on pretty sound tread, with rugged terrain in places. After dropping down tussock slopes, the trail heads north through a grove of stone pines. At the bridge crossing Stotzbach Brook is a sign. Look for the signpost slightly below, signed 514 A. That's where the trail descends to Kalser Tauernhaus Lodge. The trail starts switch-backing downwards along Wilhelm-Ernst-Trail through stands of alders, ashes and larches, passing the National Park Lookout. Take a moment to appreciate the water of Stotzbach Brook that tumbles down over the jagged rocks and cliffs of glacial erratics, from a time when this area was covered by ice, to feed the creek below. When the trail finally pops out onto the valley floor, cross Dorferbach Creek and you’ve got just a little journey to your destination, Kalser Tauernhaus Lodge at an elevation of 1,755 metres. The lodge is situated at Inner Dorfertal Valley, slightly beneath the place where Stotzbach Brook empties into Dorferbach Creek.