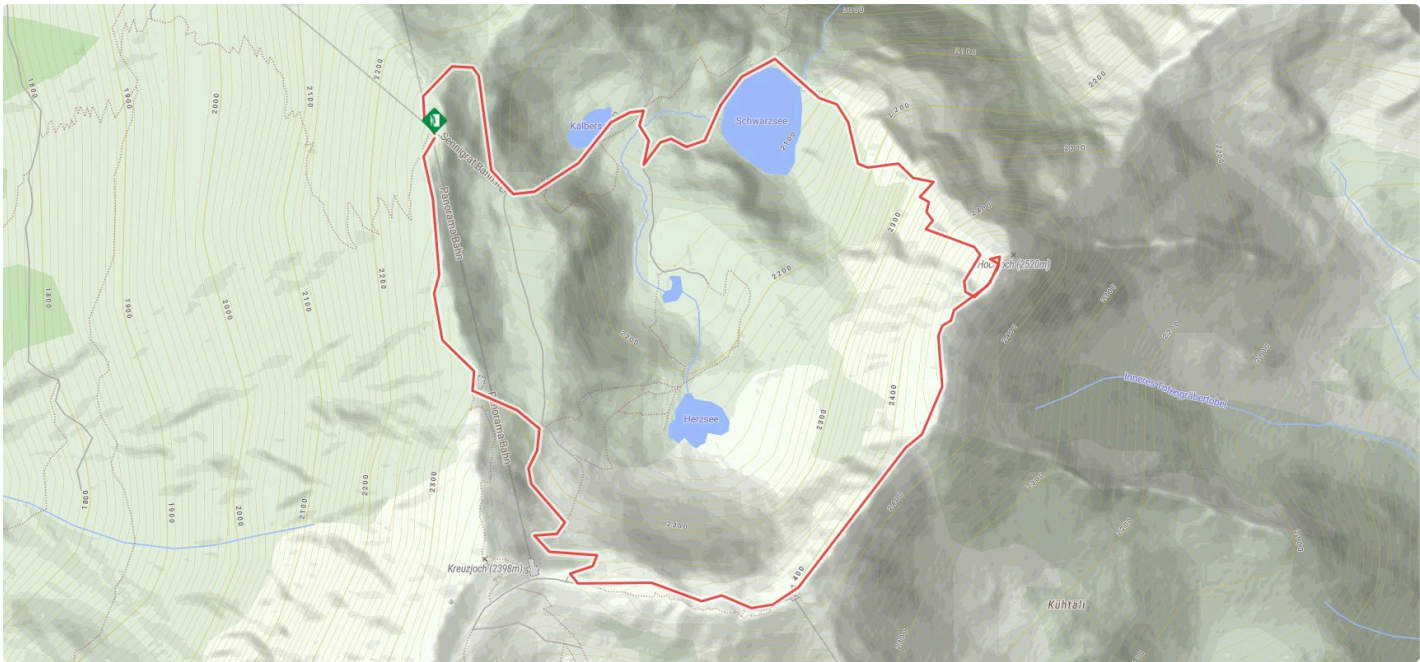


via ferrata Hochjoch

MODERATE



Tour description

A via ferrata that's quite demanding physically, but rewards you with a fantastic panoramic view of the three Montafon mountain ranges: Rätikon, Silvretta, and Verwall. The view of the Seetal valley with its three mountain lakes is also something truly special.

The Hochjoch via ferrata is the longest via ferrata in Vorarlberg, and with its two routes, it offers a variety of climbing experiences against a stunning alpine backdrop. The more challenging Variant C leads from Schwarzsee over the west face to the summit of the Hochjoch and requires good physical condition, sure-footedness, and a head for heights.

Slightly less demanding but just as scenic, Variant A/B runs along the Hochalpila Ridge. Along the way, you'll be treated to sweeping views of the Rätikon, Silvretta, and Verwall ranges.

A special highlight just before the summit is the approximately 60-meter-long suspension bridge, which can also be bypassed via a secured path.

 05:30 h duration	 4,63 km Length
 2519 m Highest point	 2088 m Lowest point
 440 m Ascent	 441 m Descent

Difficulty ● Moderate

Elevation profile

Condition	
Technique	
Difficulty	
Result	
Landscape	

Best time of year

JAN	FEB	MÄR	APR	MAI	JUN
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
JUL	AUG	SEP	OKT	NOV	DEZ
☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐

Access - Directions - Descent

Access

At the Hochjoch via ferrata, you have two options to choose from.

For the **more challenging Route 1**, you start at the top station of the Sennigrat Cable Car. From there, follow the signposted “Hochjoch Via Ferrata” trail below the cable car to Kälbersee. You'll reach the lake in about 20 minutes. The trail then continues past the Schwarzsee to the trailhead above the Schwarzsee. You should allow about 30 minutes in total for the approach.

For the **easier Option 2**, you'll head from the Sennigrat Bahn mountain station first to the Wormser Hütte and then on to the Hochalpila Bahn mountain station. Alternatively, the Grasjoch Bahn and Hochalpila Bahn will take you directly to the vicinity of the starting point. From there, follow the signs to the Hochjoch via ferrata. The starting point is located at the top station of the Hochalpila Bahn. You should allow about 1.5 hours for the approach.

Route Description

The Hochjoch via ferrata offers two different route options. Both variants run along the south-southwest face and offer impressive views of the Rätikon, Verwall, and Silvretta ranges. The 60-meter-long suspension bridge just before the summit cross is one of the highlights of the via ferrata. Alternatively, it can be bypassed using safety ropes.

Variant 1: via the west face to the Hochjoch

The more challenging Variant 1 begins near Schwarzsee and leads along Vorarlberg's longest via ferrata to the summit of the Hochjoch. The route spans approximately 1,750 meters, climbs about 450 meters in elevation, and is rated at difficulty level C.

From the start, you climb up the west face using the continuous steel cable. Two slab sections require strength, stamina, and precise footwork. Shortly before the summit, you'll encounter the spectacular, approximately 60-meter-long suspension bridge. After that, you'll reach the summit cross of the Hochjoch.

You should plan on spending about 4 hours on the via ferrata.

Facts Variant 1

- Start: Near Schwarzsee
- Via ferrata duration: approx. 4 hours
- Length: 1,750 meters of rope
- Elevation gain: 450 meters
- Difficulty: C
- Exposure: South-southwest
- Descent: approx. 1 hour

Variant 2: via the Hochalpila Ridge

The easier Variant 2 starts at the top station of the Hochalpila Cable Car and follows the Hochalpila Ridge. With a difficulty rating of B, it is more moderate but remains an alpine via ferrata that requires sure-footedness and a head for heights.

Holding onto the secured steel cable, you follow the ridge toward Hochjoch. Along the way, a sweeping view opens up of the Silvretta, Rätikon, and Verwall ranges, as well as Herzsee, Kälbersee, and Schwarzsee. At the end of the ridge hike, you have two options: You can go directly to the summit cross and return via the same ridge path. Alternatively, you can descend to the 60-meter-long suspension bridge and then return via the ridge as well.

Please do not descend via Route 1 under any circumstances. This route leads through significantly more challenging terrain rated at difficulty level C.

Facts about Route 2

- Starting point: Hochalpila Bahn mountain station
- Duration: approx. 3 hours round trip
- Length: 750-meter rope length
- Elevation gain: 100 meters
- Difficulty: B
- Exposure: South-southwest

- Descent: approx. 1 hour

Descent

For both routes, the exit is near the Hochalpila Bahn. From there, continue to the Kreuzjoch saddle and follow the signs to the Wormser Hut and on to the Sennigrat Bahn mountain station. You should allow about 40 minutes for this.

Alternatively, you can descend via the Seeweg trail through the Seetal valley to the Kapell Bahn mountain station. This route takes about 2 hours and passes the Seetalhüsli on the way to the Kapell Restaurant.

Getting to the starting point

We recommend starting at the Sennigrat Bahn mountain station. Please check the current **operating hours** of the mountain railways. You can reach the Sennigrat Bahn from Schruns via the Hochjoch Bahn or the Zamang Bahn. Alternatively, you can access it from St. Gallenkirch via the Grasjoch Bahn and the Hochalpila Bahn.

By public transportation

With the Landbus Montafon and the Montafonerbahn, you can travel comfortably and flexibly throughout the valley. Trains and buses connect the towns regularly, every half hour or hourly depending on the route. You can find suitable connections **here**. Possible stops for the start and end of this tour are: Zamang Bahn, Hochjoch Bahn, or Valisera Bahn.

By car

Take the A14 to the Bludenz/Montafon exit. Then follow the Montafonerstraße L188 to Schruns or St. Gallenkirch, where the valley stations of the respective access railways are located.

Important Information

You undertake the via ferrata at your own risk and responsibility. Please check the weather, current conditions, snow conditions, and difficulty level in advance. Realistically assess your experience, sure-footedness, ability to handle heights, and physical fitness.

Complete, standard-compliant via ferrata equipment is absolutely essential. This includes a hip belt, via ferrata set, helmet, and gloves. Equally important is appropriate footwear: sturdy, ankle-high hiking boots with good traction.

Your backpack should also include sufficient food, sun and rain protection, and a first-aid kit.

In the Montafon, you can rent high-quality via ferrata equipment at **select sports shops**. Please check in advance regarding availability, sizes, and reservation options.

Useful tips

Option C is recommended only in dry conditions, as there is an increased risk of slipping on the dirt sections otherwise.

Sicherheitstipps für Wandern in Vorarlberg

EN NOTRUF:

EN 140 - Alpine Notfälle österreichweit

EN 144 - Alpine Notfälle Vorarlberg

EN 112 - Euro-Notruf (funktioniert mit jedem Handy/Netz)

www.vorarlberg.travel/sicherheitstipps