

Paternkofel



The Paternkofel – The Most Famous Via Ferrata in the Dolomites

The Paternkofel is undoubtedly the most famous via ferrata in the Dolomites. With a professional mountain guide, the tour is also suitable for beginners.

Program

From Sexten, participants travel by car or minibus to the **Auronzo Hut** at 2,333m. From there, a wide trail leads on foot to the **Paternsattel**, where you'll get your first breathtaking view of the north faces of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo. The via ferrata begins here.

Following rocky ledges and easy climbing passages along the historic trail, the route reaches the **Gamsscharte** (De Luca via ferrata). From this point, the climb continues to the **summit** at 2,745m. After a well-deserved break at the summit, the group descends back to the **Gamsscharte**. The return follows the **Innerkofler via ferrata** in the direction of the **Dreizinnen Hut**, with the final stretch passing through historic wartime tunnels.

The tour typically concludes with a stop at one of the huts (Dreizinnen Hut, Lavaredo Hut, or Auronzo Hut) for a drink or a meal, depending on the group's preference. Depending on the weather and season, the guide may decide to complete the route in reverse order. This will be determined on the morning of the tour.

Arrival and Meeting Point

- For guests staying in **Sexten**, the guide will pick you up directly from your accommodation in the morning.
- For guests staying in other villages, a meeting point at a free parking area along the route will be arranged. From there, you can continue with the guide.

- Guests staying at the **Auronzo Hut, Lavaredo Hut, Büllelejoch Hut, or Dreizinnen Hut** will meet the guide at their hut or another convenient location.
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Start Time

Start times vary between **6:00 AM and 8:00 AM** in Sexten, depending on the weather and season. Meeting times for guests along the route or at the huts will be adjusted accordingly.

Duration

The total time from Sexten back to Sexten is approximately **6 to 9 hours**:

- Travel: approx. 45 minutes
 - Approach: 1 hour
 - Via Ferrata: approx. 4 hours
 - Descent: approx. 1.5 hours
 - Break in the hut: 30 minutes to 1 hour
 - Return travel: approx. 45 minutes
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Requirements

This via ferrata is generally manageable for beginners with a mountain guide. Participants should meet the following criteria:

- Be surefooted
 - Have no fear of heights
 - Have sufficient stamina for approx. **500 meters of elevation gain and 6-7 hours of activity**
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Group Size

3 to 6 participants per guide

Equipment List

The Alpine School provides a climbing harness, helmet, and via ferrata set. Participants are welcome to use their own equipment if it meets standard safety regulations.

Additionally, you will need:

- **Mountaineering shoes:** Lightweight approach shoes are ideal for summer, but high-cut mountain boots also work well.
- **Hiking clothing:** Long pants are recommended 99% of the time.
- **Jacket:** For breaks, wind, or rain (additional warm clothing, hat, and gloves may be needed in autumn or cold conditions).
- **Backpack**
 - Optional: Spare shirt and via ferrata gloves (not essential, as the via ferrata is relatively easy and the cable is primarily used as an aid).
- **Drinks:** approx. 1 liter per person
- **Snacks:** Food for a summit break, energy bars, fruit, or chocolate
- **Sunglasses and sunscreen**
- **Phone:** For photos and as a flashlight in the tunnel (your guide will also take photos during the tour and send them to you via email afterward).
- **Cash:** For refreshments at the huts

Important: Bring only the essentials—every kilogram counts!

