

4. Hintersee – Maria Alm

Length of Stage: ca. 45 km

Total Climbs: 1,355 m

We'll set out from Ramsau and ride up to Lake Hintersee (please refer to the previous stage) or begin right there on the western shore of the Hintersee, riding to the southern end of the lake. When we reach the intersection where there is a bus shelter, we will branch off to the right to the Hintersee Info Center for the Berchtesgaden National Park (there is a gate with a sign indicating that cycling through the Klausbachtal Valley is only permitted on the paved state road). The road through the Klausbachtal begins with only a moderate climb; towards the valley head, as we make our way up to Gasthof Hirschbichl, some stretches of the road get steeper and more winding. After Gasthof Hirschbichl, we will take the paved Hintertalstraße, dropping some 485 vertical meters to Weissbach near Lofer – the first section of this road is correspondingly steep, which means good brakes are a must!

Now continuing on the Tauern Bike Path, we will first come to the small community of Wiesing and then to Bachwinkl. Once here, we will turn right onto the main road and, after about 1 km, make a left onto the bike path. A very nice rest area has been created just after this turn-off. Our route brings us back to the main road. At this point, we have to take a left and ride up the Lichtenbergstraße – the bike path is occasionally separate from the road itself – first on the right and then on the left side of the road (watch out for cars parking!). We'll pass the school center before our path takes us into a forest, which is also where the paved road ends. The subsequent forestry road takes us through the Kalmbachgraben fosse, steadily climbing up to an alpine saddle (elev. 1195 m). A new forestry road has been constructed here, but we will keep left and soon reach the highest point of this tour to-date at around 1,280 m above sea level.

We now continue to the south, passing by a mountain spring. After about 4 km, we emerge from the forest just above Hochreith (small rest area). The forestry road now becomes broader and, after another 2 km, we will have reached Gasthof Kronreit, a great place to recharge our batteries and enjoy some refreshments.

After a well-earned break, we will make our way steadily downhill to Maria Alm. If you want, you can pedal through town, where numerous dining and refreshment opportunities are available to you.