

AUSTRIA

WED 21st JUNE - WED 28th JUNE 2017

WED

Yet another early start as the taxi picked us up at 02.30 am. With Jackie, Alan and Gill already in we picked up Sue, Tom and Christine and headed for Manchester airport. Our flight was at 06.50 am so plenty of time for breakfast. Arriving at Salzburg airport we had a 3hr coach drive to Mayrhofen. After booking in at the hotel and finding our rooms we met up and went for a walk round town. After our sumptuous evening meal of 5 courses we had a drink then bed as we were all shattered.

THUR

After a substantial breakfast we headed to the Penken cable car station where we met our two reps for a guided tour of Mayrhofen. We put our names down for a trip to Krimml Waterfalls that afternoon and a bowling night and candlelit walk.

Picking up the coach by the church we headed for the Krimml Waterfalls. At a height of 380 metres the falls are the highest in Europe. After about 1.1/2 hrs with a short stop for refreshments and to take in the magnificent views we arrived at the entrance to the falls. We started climbing the path by the side of the falls. As the path wound up through various mosses, lichens and ferns we caught glimpses of the falls and were able to get close enough to feel the cooling spray on our faces. Eventually we reached a restaurant about 1/2 way up. Thinking we had earned a nice refreshing beer Susan and I headed in, followed by Mick and Carol. The more adventurous had carried on aiming for the top. Two beers later Alan, Gill, Sue and Tom arrived having reached the top followed by Jackie and Christine. With just enough time for another beer we headed back down, with plenty of time to eat our lunch before we caught the coach back to Mayrhofen



TheReps



Our Hotel



Krimml Falls



Well Earned Beers



Nice And Comfy

FRI

We all headed to the Penken Cable Car for our Zillertal travel card which enabled us to travel on the cable cars, buses and train. We then caught the cable car, unfortunately Tom is not one for heights and held on for grim death as we ascended the hillside unable to enjoy the magnificent views. A change of cable cars brought us to the top station. Then setting off on a broad track which wound round the hillside to the summit of the Penkenjoch at 2,095 metres. After a short break enjoying spectacular panoramic views down the Tuxbach Valley. We descended quite steeply down to the meadows on the southern slopes passing some curious cows on the way. As Susan, Carol and I made a leisurely descent the rest went ahead as they wanted to walk back to Mayrhofen from Vorderlanersbach. We had lunch by a picturesque chapel arriving at Vorderlanersbach just in time to see the advance group heading to the bus stop. They had been told that the path was closed so were catching the bus to Finkenberg and walking back from there. We all caught the bus with me, Susan, Christine and Carol getting off at Mayrhofen.

That night was bowling night so we split into 2 teams. Jackie's team were the Titanic with our team the Woolly Backs. As usual the contest started off straight forward bowling, after awhile the rep introduced odd ways of delivering the bowl such as placing a coin between your knees and waddling up the alley dropping it in an ash tray before you could send your bowl if it landed in the ash tray however many pins you knocked over you got double points another way was the team lined up with our backs to the pins sending the bowl between our legs. I found out I was better at this than ordinary bowling. As far as scoring went Titanic were leading until there was a deciding bowl off which ended in an honorable draw. Jackie was not happy.



Hang in there Tom



Curious Cows



Walking The Ridge



The Only Way To Bowl

SAT

We caught the Ahorn cable car from Mayrhofen. From the top we followed a good track around the hillside with good views of Mayrhofen a long way below. We then started climbing following a rocky terrace reaching patches of snow. Unbeknown to us Jackie and Mick had hidden behind some rocks and bombarded us with snowballs, fortunately Jackie's accuracy was as bad as Her beloved Fleetwoods attack so none hit home. It was very warm as we crossed a stream where we refilled our water bottles with nice cold water. Not long after we reached the Edelhut, time for a beer I think. Some decided that they would walk back to Mayrhofen so set off, while we had another beer. Following a steep descent and after a short stop we passed a lone gentian.