

Description of pre-conference excursions SER 2016 (Freising)

1. Touring the German Limestone Alps

Remnant and restored ecosystems from the valleys to the alpine zone

Date: Tuesday, 16 August to Saturday, 20 August 2016

Excursion leader: Prof. em. Dr. Jörg Pfadenhauer (Technical University of Munich)

Dr. Timo Conradi (Aarhus University)

Maximum number of participants: **20**



Costs (estimate as of 10.12.2015 – if fully booked): Around 360 € per Person, including breakfast, drinks and snacks on the bus.

Requirements: Hiking experience in mountains and alpine regions, good physical condition, hiking boots, weatherproof clothing, cotton sleeping bag ('Hüttenschlafsack') for Tutzinger Hütte (can be rented), rucksack for two nights in mountain huts, willingness to share bedrooms (!). The 1st day includes eight hours hike on uneven mountainous terrain.

Introduction: The Alps, the highest mountain system in Central Europe, extend over 1.200 km from west to east and – at their broadest part – around 240 km from north to south. The excursion offers the opportunity to get to know a section of the northern calcareous Alps: the pre-alps with summits between 1.500 and 1.800 m a.s.l. (Brauneck till Benediktenwand) and the high Alps which reach up to almost 3.000 m a.s.l. (Wetterstein range with Zugspitze mountain).

Climatically, the pre-Alps are moister than the high Alps; the timberline of the latter is at 200 m higher level (ca. 2.000 m a.s.l.). The vegetation consists of beech-fir-spruce forests in the lower and middle montane belt and of (oreo-boreal) spruce (*Picea abies*) and pine (*Pinus cembra*) forests in the upper montane belt. The subalpine belt between timber- and treeline is covered by 'krummholz'

[Glentleiten Open air museum](#) (showing historic farmhouses from southern Bavaria); guided tour by museum staff.

Afternoon: Mire complex in the Upper Loisach valley between Eschenlohe and Garmisch-Partenkirchen (bogs, fens, wet meadows). “Buckelwiesen” (hummock meadow): species-rich calcareous grassland on relicts of late Pleistocene polygon soils near Klais (933 m a.s.l.).

Lodging: [Landgasthof “Sonnenhof”, Klais near Mittenwald](#)

Day 4 (Friday, 19 August 2016)

In the early morning transfer by bus to the valley of Elmau at the foot (around 1.000 m a.s.l.) of the Wetterstein mountain chain; hike up Schachen mountain to former alpine pastures just below the alpine treeline; 1.870 m a.s.l. Montane beech-spruce-fir forests (oreonemoral), upper montane spruce and pine forests (oreoboreal), subalpine krummholz and tall forb communities, species-rich subalpine meadows.

In the evening: Visit to the impressive King’s House at Schachen (hunting lodge of the Ludwig II, the “Fairytale King”).

[Lodging: private lodge “Schachenhaus”](#)

Day 5 (Saturday, 20 August 2016)

Hike to Fraunalpl (2.100–2.400 m a.s.l.): Vegetation of the alpine belt (alpine grassland, scree vegetation, alpine mires, rock crevice vegetation etc.). Effect of sheep grazing on vegetation and soils. Afternoon hike down to Elmau (altitude difference around 1.300 m);

Return to Freising by bus. Arrival at Freising ca. 8 p.m.

