

**“Great things are done when men and mountains meet” –  
William Blake (1757 – 1827)**

An extract from my diary 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007, one of many days out with guests exploring the mountains.....

..... “casually looking back down the path I noticed it is still misty in the valley below, full of low level cloud, an inversion a sign of good weather today, a bright blue sky above, although still early the sun is already warm. We are all excited about today’s adventure and the sights we expect to see, learn and enjoy from spending another day in the mountains, the information and knowledge our companion and guide will share with us. After steadily walking for nearly two hours we stop for a rest before we cross the stream, we listen to the gentle sound of water chasing and bubbling over and between the beds of stones, we see grass banks abundant with so many different flowers, too many to count. We are just breaking through the tree line (about 1890 meters - 5800 ft above sea level) and just visible on a distant ridge a small herd of Steinbock are grazing conscience and aware of our presence, about 90 meters away, barely visible, well camouflaged and strategically positioned on a very large rock, a Marmot whistles out to its family a warning of our presence. We hear the faint and gentle chime of cowbells orchestrated by the cows as they graze the high meadows. Without warning, startled and mesmerised we stood frozen to the ground, mouths open, frightened to move or even breathe, in fear of frightening away this most wonderful sight, amazed that such a large animal can move so eloquently and quietly, standing just a few metres before us a”.....

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Wake up to this...



... and stay in spacious and fully equipped self-catering apartments  
Peaceful setting on edge of friendly village  
Spectacular views  
Direct access to garden  
Fully fitted kitchen  
Cycling, walking, horse riding, climbing and much more  
Easy Routes from door step  
Fresh bread and milk, delivered daily – although we encourage to get out and visit the local baker where they provide a large selection of breads, rolls, cakes and other delights

Welcome, and thank you for choosing this ideal location to explore the wonders of this fantastic valley within the Austrian Tyrol - the Pitztal.

Set in the heart of the Austrian Tyrol, St. Leonhard, Pitztal. This traditional and unspoilt valley offers an ideal summer location for the adventurous, visiting the mountain Alms, trekking across the Glaciers or mountain biking. Alternatively you can stroll the flowery meadows, sit, relax and gaze at the wonderful views and abundant wildlife. Please contact us for more information:

This unspoilt valley where many of the old farming traditions are still upheld to this day. Most of the farmers have their family roots in the valley dating back hundreds of years. Irrespective of your background, your culture and perceptions of life remember cultures that evolve around the land and traditional farming techniques are the source of life and can be quite humbling to all of us.

We are sure you will both enjoy their homeland and come away more enlightened, refreshed and already planning your return.

The local people are very friendly, helpful and are pleased that you have chosen to spend your holidays here.

The Pitztal, full of character, charm and tranquil settings is free of noisy discos, American burger houses and misbehaved beer-drinking jobs. It is however, a place to relax, to enjoy tasty freshly made food, experience good service and explore the area as you wish in peace. Many families come back year after year, many have come as children and they now come back with their children, as our family has done so for over forty years. All the hotels, guesthouses (pubs) and restaurants etc. have great and individual atmospheres where you will find many places to enjoy yourselves.

You can get to the Pitztal by car, rail or plane. The journey by car from the English Channel and North Sea ports Calais, Zeebrugge, Rotterdam or Amsterdam is approximately 650 miles, mainly on motorways with the last 70 miles along a very scenic mountain route from southern Germany, into Tyrol and over The Fernpass.

Our preferred route; however, there are more choices of interesting routes. By train you arrive at Imst, on the route of The Orient Express, at the foot of the valley, 15 miles from the apartment. If you choose to fly into Innsbruck you are only 40

minutes away by car. If you choose to either fly into Innsbruck or come by train to Imst we will arrange to get you collected. Other airports within reasonable distance are Munich, Salzburg, Friedrichshafen or Zurich.

The apartments sleep four to six people in comfortable and spacious rooms, in two separate bedrooms and lounge with double and single sofa bed. A fully equipped kitchen with cooker oven and hob, dishwasher, microwave, large fridge, toaster and dinning area. A separate Toilet and bathrooms with both individual bath and shower.

There is a spacious entrance hallway and plenty of storage spaces. We offer drying facilities during summer and winter seasons. Each apartment has its own access to either garden or balcony with outside furniture etc.

To help you enjoy your time here and within the Pitztal we will provide you with an initial welcome pack, food and drink for your enjoyment and some items to get you started until you get a chance to visit the shops.

You will also find informational leaflets and accompanying information about the Pitztal, piste maps along with details of some current and forthcoming events that will be happening. There is a tourist office, situated in the Gemeinder (council) offices, next to the Riaffeissen bank, just before the church, and only 100mtr walk from here. In the tourist office you will find a whole wide range of information to suit the needs and feed the expectations of you and your party.

You will find in the village there is a family run baker, shop, post office a doctor and a welcoming Gasthaus (hotel and pub). Next to the church there is a bank with a 24-hour cash machine and a tourist office. Although this office is not staffed it is always open and there is a wide range of free information on hand. The tourist offices in Wennis and Mandarfen (village, just before the Glacier and situated opposite the Rieffelseebahn) are staffed and are very helpful. There are larger general stores in Poismos ( next village up the valley) and Mandarfen. Larger supper stores can me found in Wennis and Imst, down the valley, where you will find a wide range of large stores and specialised shops.

Our son Karl lives in the house permanently and will be on hand if you have any questions. Karl is a ski racer and trains in the Beni Raich race training camp, situated near the ski result of Jerzens – Pitztal. If you have any questions regarding skiing conditions, equipment and places to go please speak to Karl, likewise if any one would like more information regarding the race training and camps please contact us or Karl.

Club alpine, situated in Mandarfen next to the cable car, provides weekly programs during the summer and winter seasons. They have a very large ski school that is able to accommodate all your requirements. They can provide courses to suit all abilities from beginners to the more experienced; and of course equipment hire. When ever possible we will keep our guests aware of any special events; however, please take the opportunity when visiting the tourist offices, Ski-school/Club alpine and lift offices to take note of local events that are always advertised.

Summer tours i.e. guided walking tours are a fantastic opportunity to meet people, exploring and getting the most out of the mountains. Quite often guided walks include specialists in identifying local flowers, wildlife and other points of interest. For those of us that can not comfortable doing the harder high alpine walks, want a change or something more relaxing, there are many interesting walking tours and marked trails within the lower valley walkways. The area is an ideal place for artists and photographers, a perfect location for inspiring writers, poets and musicians –

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There is also prepared winter walking trails open during the winter, and please remember to follow any safety notices.

We will try to help in accommodating all your needs and interests here in the Pitztal and we are obviously aware that not everybody in your group or family may always want to do the same thing all the time together. If you enjoy cycling there are cycle routes along the length of the Pitztal and over to the Kannertal via Pillar – turn off at Wennis. There are a number of cycle hire shops in the valley – we will gladly organise hire and recommend routes on behalf of our guests.

The summer offers so much for both the active and less active, as already mentioned you can explore the mountains trails, see so much on the way, and stop off at many of the friendly mountain huts and alms. Just relax, soak up and enjoy the fantastic atmosphere, the banter with the locals and other visitors, have food and drink before you continue your adventures, is always great fun. Some are still working alms and often have live stock nearby.

Such walks can take between one and a half to three and half-hours on average depending on your hunger for adventure and level of fitness. Many mountain huts provide simple over night accommodation, a great experience, especially if you want to embark on a round tour. Getting up early, have a brisk breakfast and get out seeing the wild life; a breath taking and a fantastic opportunity. Other summer activities including horse riding, mountain biking, cycling, white-water rafting, canoeing, climbing and anything you would expect in a well-prepared and experienced mountain resort. You can also go summer skiing in the adjoining valley on the Kaunnertal Glacier.

There are free and regular bus services; a ski bus in the winter and a walker's bus during the summer season. Your nearest bus stop is in front of the Liesle – Gasthaus about 100 meters from the apartment. There is also a regular Post bus service.

Groups, clubs and parties: we are able to provide accommodation in the valley within a number of good quality Guesthouses, three and four star hotels, along with conference, training and entertainment facilities

For the benefit of all our guests we have adopted a no-smoking policy within the apartments. However we have provided facilitates outside where you can enjoy a smoke in reasonable comfort. You will see there is a heat lamp above the outside seating areas to compensate for any discomfort on cold days.

We invite our summer guests to use the garden furniture provided and please ask if you require assistance in putting the furniture out. If you wish to have a bar-b-que, please ask and we will provide the equipment and charcoal.

Similarly we invite our winter guests to sit outside and like wise enjoy the summer sun, using the furniture provided. If you feel you would like to enjoy a BBQ in winter sun please ask and we will provide the equipment and charcoal, you just need to provide the food.

We wish you an enjoyable holiday, and remember if you need help or have any questions please ask.

Yours sincerely,

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P.S. To save you time, prior to your holiday here, tell us your requirements and we can arrange, on your behalf, ski hire, ski lessons, trips, ski passes etc. for your family – all you have to do is tell us what you would like to do, and we will have it arranged