



PRESS RELEASE
Summer 2019

10 YEARS OF BIRDS OF PREY UP-CLOSE

EAGLE'S STAGE AHORN – EUROPE'S HIGHEST-ALTITUDE BIRDS OF PREY STATION

When as many as 800 spectators hold their breath at the same time, you can really feel the excitement at the Eagle's Stage Ahorn in Mayrhofen im Zillertal. That's where the kings of the sky hover just inches above the heads of spectators before diving down to grab some bait, providing for some unforgettable moments at 2,000 meters above sea level. Accompanied by his wife Waltraud, Didi Wechselberger, manager of the highest-altitude Birds of Prey station in Europe, lets you experience these aerial acrobats up close and in action. The stars are "Steppi" the eagle, "Lanny" the buzzard, "Billi" and "Virginia" the eagle-owls, "Hansi" the falcon, and "Ashok" and "Laika" the red tailed hawks.

The impressive stage that was built out of natural materials and is located at 2,000 meters above sea level has been home to eagles, buzzards, falcons, and eagle-owls for 10 years. The birds are anything but shy, which makes for a sensational show. "Don't get too close. It's no fun to be kissed by a bird's beak", says Didi Wechselberger, as his eagle, buzzards, eagle-owls, and even falcons hang out in the audience, while he and his wife Waltraud Wechselberger mention impressive facts about the habits of these Birds of Prey. Who would have thought that "Steppi", the huge steppe eagle, only hunts for mice, while "Lanny", the rather small Harris' Hawk, prefers foxes or rabbits? And how do eagle-owls find their prey in the dark of night? Falconer Didi knows his birds inside and out, because he's able to see the world through their eyes. Having grown up on the Edelhütte in Mayrhofen at 2,200 meters above sea level, he had a close connection with the animals on the mountains early in his life. "An eagle had its nest not far from our home and I observed it for many hours until I felt that it had accepted me." That was the beginning of Didi's special relationship with Birds of Prey, and in 2009 he opened Europe's highest-altitude Birds of Prey Station on the Ahorn Plateau. Thanks to his ability to "understand the language of animals" he is able to coax the birds into showing off their aerial acrobatics in front of breathtaking scenery. No wonder the 60 minutes of the Birds of Prey Show literally fly by, even after 10 years. **And in order to celebrate the anniversary of the Eagle's Stage Ahorn, all children (born after 1 January 2004) get free admission to the show on the 10th of the months in June, July, August, and October.**

BACKSTAGE FALCONRY PROGRAM

Every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. you have the opportunity to get an exclusive look behind the scenes of the Eagle's Stage Ahorn to learn more about the profession of a falconer and the fascinating features of the animals. You will also join the falconers as they feed and care for the birds and you will be given plenty of useful information about the protection of animals and the preservation of nature in the Alps. The package, which can be booked with or without lunch at the Café-Bistro Kunstraum at the Ahornbahn mountain station, includes the Birds of Prey Show in the afternoon. Please note: All participants have to register by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and must be at least 16 years of age.



DAIRY DELIGHTS AND FEARSOME FLIGHTS OR FULL STEAM AHEAD TO THE MOUNTAINS

Guests of all ages will enjoy our “Dairy Delights and Fearsome Flights” and “Full Steam Ahead to the Mountains” group packages. In the morning, choose between a visit to the ErlebnisSennerei Zillertal (Zillertal Exhibition Dairy) or a ride with the Zillertalbahn. Two packages, numerous highlights: At the 6,000-square-meter Alpine dairy, cheese lovers can experience the world of milk processing and cheese making up close. Following the tour, you will be able to taste a fine selection of cheeses, in keeping with the motto, “see, smell, and enjoy!” A ride on the Zillertalbahn steam train from Jenbach to Mayrhofen provides great views of the entire Zillertal. In the afternoon, the Ahornbahn, Austria's largest gondola, takes guests of both programs up Leisure Mountain Ahorn to the Eagle's Stage Ahorn, which is open daily from 2:00 p.m. (except Tuesdays) from mid-June to mid-October.

You can also follow us on our “So müssen Berge sein” Facebook page or on Instagram with the hashtag #somuessenbergesein.

For more information, visit www.mayrhofner-bergbahnen.com.



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EAGLE'S STAGE AHORN —BIRDS OF PREY UP-CLOSE

EAGLE'S STAGE AHORN

Birds of Prey Show and "Falconry Backstage" Program from mid-June to mid-October
Europe's highest-altitude Birds of Prey Station at 2,000 meters above sea level
Birds: eagle, buzzards, eagle-owls, and falcons
Birds of Prey Show: Wednesday to Monday at 2:00 p.m.
Free admission: daily from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (except Wednesdays)

WORKSHOP

"Falconry Backstage" Program every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Bookable with or without lunch at the Café-Bistro Kunstraum
Includes entry fee for the Birds of Prey Show in the afternoon
Price: € 59 per person incl. lunch at the Café-Bistro Kunstraum
Register by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday

"DAIRY DELIGHTS AND FEARSOME FLIGHTS" GROUP PACKAGE

Admission and tour of the ErlebnisSennerei Zillertal as well as a tasting of selected
cheese specialties of the Sennerei Zillertal
Ascent with Austria's largest gondola, the Ahornbahn
Birds of Prey Show at the Eagle's Stage Ahorn
Hiking tour suggestion: Leisure Trail Ahorn (suitable for baby buggies) with four viewing platforms
Minimum number of participants: 20 people
Adults: € 43.00 per person
Children born after 1 January 2004: € 24.50 per person

"FULL STEAM AHEAD TO THE MOUNTAINS" GROUP PACKAGE

Ride with the Zillertalbahn to Mayrhofen and back
Ascent with Austria's largest gondola, the Ahornbahn
Birds of Prey Show at the Eagle's Stage Ahorn
Adults: from € 39.20 per person
Children born after 1 January 2004: from € 19.10 per person

APPS

Mayrhofner Mountain App: available for free in the App Store and the Google Play Store
Locandy App: The audio adventure drama called "Der Wilderer vom Ahorn", available for free in the App Store and the Google Play Store

SOUVENIRS

Available at all Mayrhofner Bergbahnen cash desks and in the Online Shop at
www.mayrhofner-bergbahnen.com

OPENING HOURS

Penkenbahn
Kombibahn Penken
Ahornbahn

25 May to 13 October 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
25 May to 13 October 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., last descent at 4:30 p.m.
8 June to 27 October 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every thirty minutes,
with additional rides based on demand

Last updated: April 2019

Texts and pictures available as download at

<https://www.mayrhofner-bergbahnen.com/en/press-area/>

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