



Mayrhofen Press Release **Summer 2017**

FASCINATING - TOUCHING - INSPIRING

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

When you feel the excitement as 800 spectators hold their breath at the same time, you know you're at Eagle's Stage Ahorn. Here the kings of the air hover just inches above spectators' heads before zooming down at a steep angle to catch their bait. Fascinating moments presented by Didi Wechselberger, manager of the highest-altitude Birds of Prey station in Europe at 2,000 metres. The stars of the show are Steppi the eagle, Lanny the female buzzard, Billi and Virginia the owls and Hansi the falcon - flight acrobats who create moments of unforgettable excitement against the spectacular backdrop of the Zillertal Alps.

BIRDS OF PREY - ALMOST CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH

"But don't get too close - a peck with one of their beaks is not especially pleasant", says Didi Wechselberger when his stars settle among the spectators. The birds are certainly not shy - which is precisely what makes the show so sensational. Eagles, buzzards, owls and a falcon get into contact with the audience while Didi Wechselberger and Roy Butterfield talk about the fascinating hunting and living habits of these Birds of Prey. Who would have thought that Steppi the steppe eagle only catches little mice, while Lanny the female Harris' hawk will quite happily slay a fox or a hare? And how do owls identify their prey at night? Falconer Didi knows his hunters well because he has learnt to view the world from their perspective. Having grown up at the Edelhütte hut in Mayrhofen at an altitude of more than 2,200 metres, he became familiar with mountain fauna at an early age. "An eagle nested nearby and I used to observe it for hours until I realized that he had come to accept me." This was the start of his special relationship with Birds of Prey. One result of this was the opening of Europe's highest-altitude Birds of Prey station on the Ahorn Plateau in 2009. And it is because he understands and 'speaks' the birds' language that he is able to get them to perform such breathtaking flying stunts against this spectacular backdrop. No wonder time flies during the 60-minute show.

FALCONRY BACKSTAGE

Here, adults and children can find out every Wednesday from 9.30 am to 11.30 am what it's like to be a falconer. They are given an exclusive peak behind the scenes at Eagle's Stage Ahorn. This is where Didi Wechselberger invites both children and adults to hear about what the job of a falconer actually involves. They find out about the birds' special requirements, see how they are kept and fed and also receive useful information on the subject of animal welfare and nature conservation. The package also includes admission to the Birds of Prey show in the afternoon. Important to know: all participants have to be registered by 4 pm on Tuesday at the latest.



“DAIRY DELIGHTS”, “FIRE & MOUNTAINS” OR “STEAMING UP TO THE EAGLE’S STAGE”

The group packages “Dairy Delights and Fearsome Flights”, “Fire & Mountains” and “Steaming up to the Eagle’s Stage” offer an attractive mixture for guests both young and old: in the morning the program involves a visit to the ErlebnisSennerei Zillertal Dairy, a visit to the biomass heating plant or a rail ride with the Zillertalbahn to Mayrhofen. Three packages, lots of highlights: at the ErlebnisSennerei Zillertal Dairy, cheese-lovers can find out how milk is turned into cheese at eleven stations distributed over a surface area of 6,000 square metres – naturally followed by a tasting session true to the motto “See, smell and enjoy”. Meanwhile the biomass heating plant provides a fascinating insight into the world of wood. With state-of-the-art audio guide technology, visitors are provided with extensive information on wood, long-distance heating, green power, CO2 emissions, Kyoto and pellet production. The tour of the plant finishes with a two-course lunch in an open-air garden – the spectacular SichtBAR provides not just impressive culinary delights but also a breathtaking view of the Zillertal mountain scenery. A ride with the historic steam train of the Zillertalbahn from Jenbach to Mayrhofen guarantees great views to the whole Zillertal valley. In the afternoon, the packages include a ride on Austria’s biggest cable car, the Ahornbahn, up to the Leisure Mountain to see the fascinating and inspiring Eagle’s Stage Ahorn, open every day from 2 pm except Friday from mid-June to October.



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Infobox: Mayrhofen

www.mayrhofner-bergbahnen.com

Eagle's Stage Ahorn

Birds of Prey Show and Falconry Backstage program from mid-June to October
The highest-altitude Birds of Prey station in Europe at 2,000 metres
Birds: eagles, buzzards, owls and falcons
Birds of Prey Show: Saturday to Thursday at 2 pm



Workshop

Falconry Backstage, every Wednesday from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, includes admission to Birds of Prey Show in the afternoon
Adults: € 60,00 per person (children born after 01.01.2002: € 28.90 per person)
Registration deadline: 4 pm Tuesday

Souvenirs

At all cash desk of the Mayrhofen cable cars, at the new shop at the main street of Mayrhofen and online at www.mayrhofner-bergbahnen.com/de/shop/urlaubererinnerungen

Group package "Dairy Delights"

Admission and visit to the ErlebnisSennerei Zillertal Dairy incl. selected cheese specialities from Zillertal Dairy
Ascent on Austria's biggest cable car, the Ahornbahn
Birds of Prey Show at Eagle's Stage Ahorn
Suggested walk: Ahorn Leisure Trail with interactive stations and viewing platforms
Minimum no. participants: 20
Adults: € 40,60 per person (children born after 01.01.2002: € 22,30 per person)



Group package "Fire & Mountain"

Guided tour of the biomass heating plant and two-course lunch at the SichtBAR (not incl. drinks)
Ascent on Austria's biggest cable car, the Ahornbahn
Can be booked with or without Birds of Prey Show at the Eagle's Stage Ahorn
Adults: € 40,60 per person (children born after 01.01.2002: € 28,10 per person)



Group package "Steaming up to the Eagle's Stage"

Rail ride with the Zillertalbahn to Mayrhofen and back again
Ascent and descent with the Ahornbahn
Birds of Prey Show at the Eagle's Stage Ahorn
Adults: € 41,10 per person (children born after 01.01.2002: € 20,60 per person)

Directions

By car

From Munich approx. 1.5 to 2 hours (149 km)

By rail

By express train to Jenbach,
then another 35 kilometres to Mayrhofen on the Zillertalbahn

By air

The nearest airports are in Innsbruck (65 km), Salzburg (170 km) and Munich (190 km)

For further details and RSS newsfeed as well as text and visual material for download, see www.press-service.info/mayrhofen-en

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