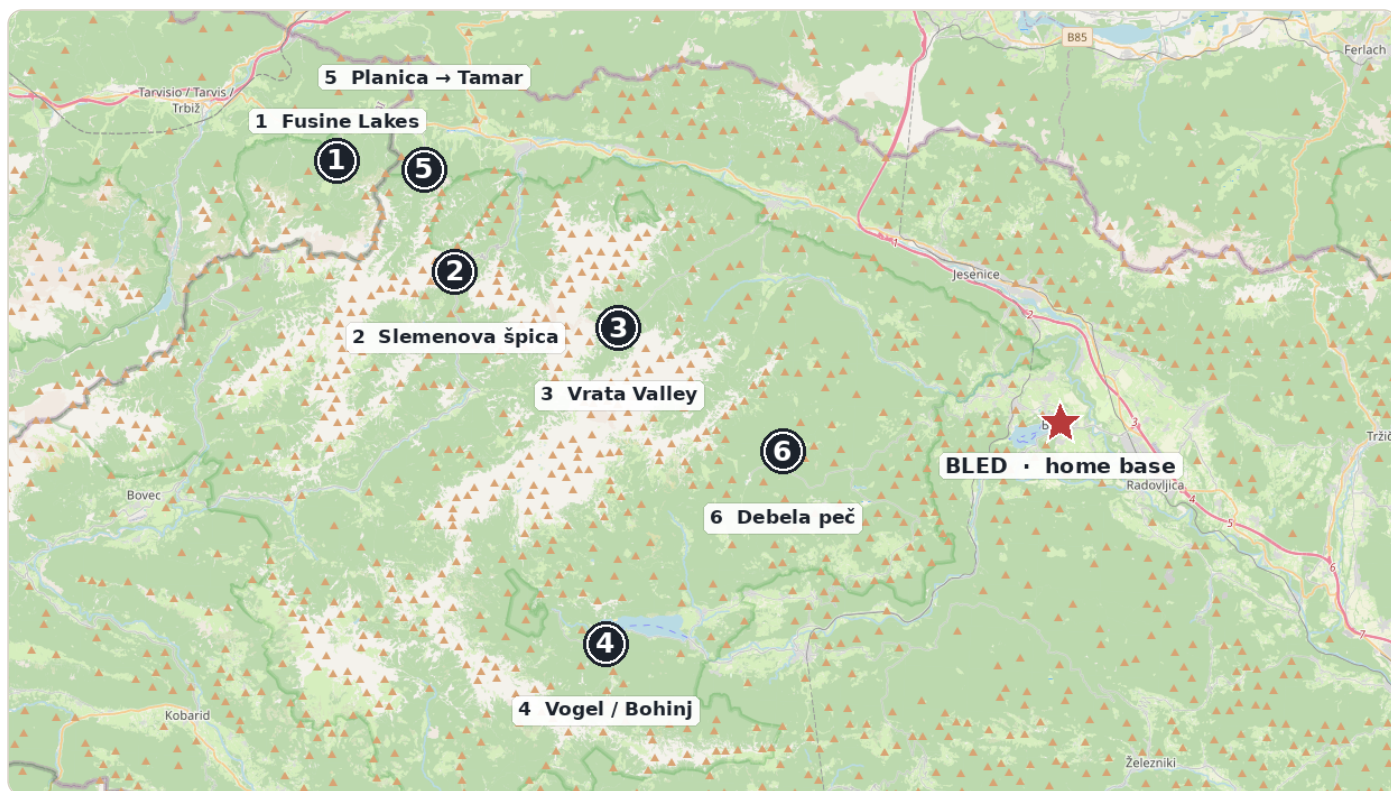


Day 3 — Pick Our Mountain

Six ways to spend tomorrow. Choose whichever one the morning feels like.



★ Bled · numbered pins are the six options. Map tiles © OpenStreetMap contributors.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Fusine Lakes + Rifugio Zacchi
<i>Two mirror lakes and a shady forest climb to frico and strudel.</i> | ● ● ● ○ ○ |
| 2 | Slemenova špica, from the Vršič Pass
<i>The postcard ridge — larches, meadows, and Jalovec straight ahead.</i> | ● ● ● ○ ○ |
| 3 | Vrata Valley: the Triglav North Face
<i>The least walking of all six, under the biggest wall in the Eastern Alps.</i> | ● ○ ○ ○ ○ |
| 4 | Vogel Cablecar + a Bohinj Swim
<i>Four minutes up, a whole panorama, and a warm lake to finish in.</i> | ● ○ ○ ○ ○ |
| 5 | Planica → Tamar Valley, with Zelenci
<i>The gentlest full walk, with Jalovec ahead and an emerald spring on the way home.</i> | ● ● ○ ○ ○ |
| 6 | Debela peč via Lipanca
<i>Closest drive. Hut first, then decide over lunch whether a 2,014 m summit appeals.</i> | ● ● ○ ○ ○ |

The six, side by side

Everything at a glance — then turn the page for the full picture on each.

OPTION	DRIVE FROM BLED	WALKING TIME	ASCENT	EFFORT	SHADE	FOOD AT DESTINATION	SWIM?	COST approx (Aug 2026)	THE VIEW IN FOUR WORDS
1 Fusine Lakes + Rifugio Zacchi	~50 min	1h15–1h30 up ~45 min down	~300 m		Mostly shaded	Rifugio Zacchi	No	~€5 parking	Mirror lakes, Mangart wall
2 Slemenova špica, from the Vršič Pass	~55 min	1h15 each way	~250 m		Little — big sun	Huts near pass	No	~€3/hr parking	Jalovec's pyramid, postcard ridge
3 Vrata Valley: the Triglav North Face	~45 min + free bus	30–60 min flat	Flat		Not noted	Aljažev dom	No	Free bus (~€3 seat, optional)	Biggest wall, Eastern Alps
4 Vogel Cablecar + a Bohinj Swim	~40 min	Gentle paths your choice	Cablecar		Not noted	Top station (self-service)	Yes — warm	~€33 cablecar	Meadows, cowbells, Triglav panorama
5 Planica → Tamar Valley, with Zelenci	~40 min	~40 min each way	~120 m		Not noted	Dom v Tamarju	No	~€4 parking	Jalovec framed dead ahead
6 Debela peč via Lipanca	~35 min	Stage 1 ~1 h +1h15 ea. to top	~280 m +420 m		Shaded, then open	Blejska koča	No	Free parking	Triglav's entire east face

- A NOTE ON THE EFFORT DOTS

These are calibrated for us, right now — not for a guidebook. Three dots means a proper walk with a comfortable amount of stopping built in, and one dot means the view does nearly all the work.
- A NOTE ON PRICES

Every price on these pages is approximate (Aug 2026) — treat them as a guide for what to have in the wallet rather than a quote.
- A NOTE ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Every photo in here was taken in high summer — most of them in July or August — so what you are looking at is roughly what we would actually walk into. Each one carries the month it was shot.
- OPTION 6 HAS TWO SIZES

Its dots show stage one, the hour up to the hut. The optional summit above it is a four-dot afternoon, and it is decided at the hut — never before.



Photo: Julien Seguinot · CC BY-SA 2.0 · via Wikimedia Commons · shot in July

Two lakes just over the Italian border, and the lower one does the mirror trick — the whole 1,500 m Mangart wall laid out upside down on the water. Walk the flat loop if that is all you fancy. Or take trail CAI 512 up through wide, shady forest to Rifugio Zacchi, where frico and polenta and strudel are waiting. Because it is shaded nearly the whole way, this is the one option that is genuinely happy with a midday start.

THE FACTS

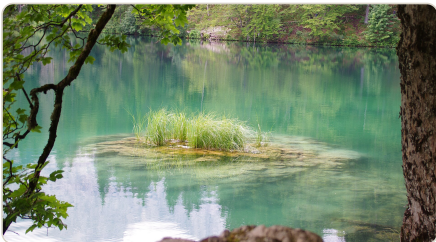
DRIVE FROM BLED	~50 min, via Rateče
PARKING	Upper lake, ~€5/day — approx (Aug 2026)
TRAIL	CAI 512 from the upper-lake car park
WALKING TIME	1h15–1h30 up · ~45 min down
ASCENT	~300 m
SURFACE	Wide forest track, mostly shaded
DESTINATION	Rifugio Zacchi, 1,380 m · 4.5★

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- The lower lake's mirror reflections of the Mangart wall, 1,500 m high.
- Flat, easy loop walks around both lakes.
- A wide, mostly-shaded forest track the whole way up.

THE HONEST BITS

- A parking hunt at midday — the upper lot is busy in August. The lower-lake lot is the fallback.
- The final stretch steepens slightly.
- We take trail 512 up and back only — **not** the “Anello / Porticina” loop variant, which has exposed sections.



Photos, left to right: JakobZ (CC BY-SA 3.0, Aug) · Frerk Meyer (CC BY-SA 2.0, Jul) · Julien Seguinot (CC BY-SA 2.0, Jul) — via Wikimedia Commons

TURNAROUND & BAIL-OUT

The flat lake loops are a lovely outing entirely on their own — if the climb does not appeal on the day, we simply stay down by the water. On 512 it is the same track up and back, so we can turn around at any point and lose nothing.

FOOD

Rifugio Zacchi at the top — frico, polenta, strudel. Worth a WhatsApp to +39 333 308 0555 the evening before to check it is cooking.



Photo: Dreamy Pixel · CC BY 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

This is the one on all the postcards, and it thoroughly earns it. You start at the top of the Vršič pass, wander up through larches, and then the trees open onto meadows and a ridge that looks straight across at Jalovec’s rock pyramid. An hour and a quarter each way, with a gentle 250 m of climbing in it. Hats are non-negotiable — the sun up there is very sincere.

THE FACTS	
DRIVE FROM BLED	~55 min, to the pass-top car park
PARKING	Regulated, ~€3/hr — approx (Aug 2026)
WALKING TIME	1h15 each way
ASCENT	~250 m
SURFACE	Larch woods, then open meadow; rocky steps in places
BEST STARTED	Walking by 12:30
DESTINATION	The ridge facing Jalovec

WHAT YOU’LL SEE

- Larches first, then open meadows opening onto the ridge.
- Jalovec’s rock pyramid dead ahead — Slovenia’s classic postcard hike.

THE HONEST BITS

- Parking is the crux of this one: it is regulated and it **fills**. The huts slightly below the pass are our fallback.
- Rocky steps in places.
- Big sun exposure — hats, water, and walking by 12:30.
- No food at the top, so we eat before or after.



Photos, left to right: Frerk Meyer (CC BY-SA 2.0, Jul) — via Wikimedia Commons

TURNAROUND & BAIL-OUT
Out and back along the same path, so turning round early costs us nothing but a shrug. If the pass-top car park is full, we drop to the huts just below and make it a hut lunch instead — no drama either way.

FOOD
Nothing at the top. Tičarjev dom and Erjavčeva koča sit near the pass, so we eat before we set off or when we come back down.



Photo: Javier Sanchez Portero · CC BY-SA 2.0 · via Wikimedia Commons · shot in July

The easiest walking of all six, attached to far and away the biggest view. Park at Mojstrana, hop on the free valley bus, and step off at Aljažev dom into a flat green valley floor. Above you sits a wall a kilometre high and three kilometres wide — the biggest rock face in the Eastern Alps. Wander thirty to sixty minutes to the Kugy monument viewpoints, then goulash at the hut.

THE FACTS	
DRIVE FROM BLED	~45 min, to Mojstrana's Prodi P+R
GETTING IN	FREE valley bus to Aljažev dom (runs to 30 Sep)
SEAT RESERVATION	Optional, ~€3 — approx (Aug 2026)
WALKING TIME	30–60 min, entirely flat
ASCENT	Valley floor — essentially none
SURFACE	Flat valley floor from the hut
DESTINATION	Aljažev dom, 1,015 m · 4.7★

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- The Triglav north face — 1,000 m high, 3 km wide, the biggest rock face in the Eastern Alps.
- The Kugy monument viewpoints, a flat half-hour's wander from the hut.
- Optional en route: the Peričnik waterfall.

THE HONEST BITS

- We take the bus rather than drive: the road in is narrow, 10 km and part gravel, with a paid lot at the end.
- The Peričnik waterfall costs about 20 minutes of steps — completely skippable, and no one will mind if we skip it.



Photos, left to right: Bojan Marušič (CC BY-SA 4.0, Jul) — via Wikimedia Commons

TURNAROUND & BAIL-OUT

There is nothing here to bail out of. The walking is flat and the hut is the anchor — we go as far as feels good, thirty minutes or sixty, and turn round whenever. The bus does all the real work.

FOOD

Aljažev dom — goulash and štruklji.

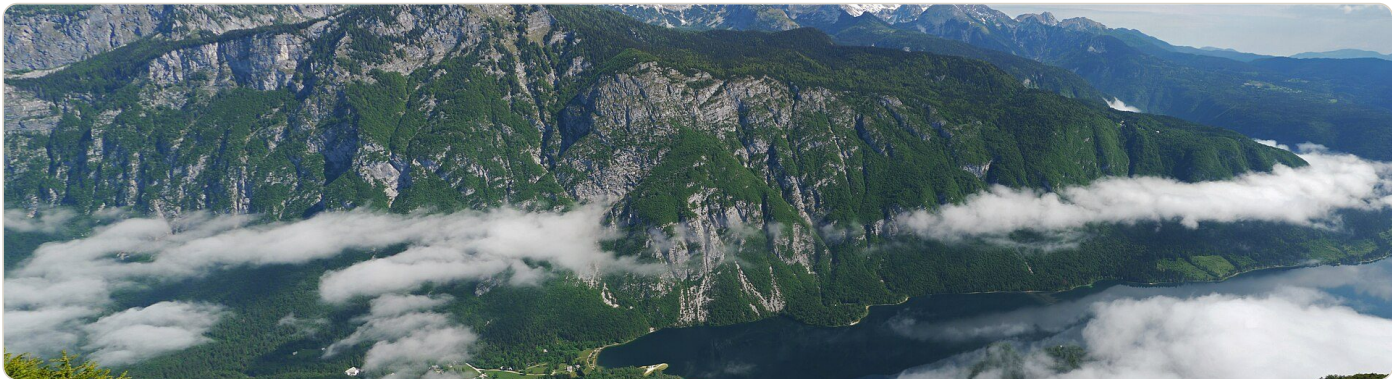


Photo: chensiyuan · CC BY-SA 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons · shot in June

Four minutes in a cablecar buys you 1,535 m, wildflower meadows, cowbells and the whole Triglav panorama, with no climbing whatsoever involved. Stroll the gentle paths as much or as little as you like, ride the free chairlift higher if you are curious, then come down and get into Lake Bohinj. In August that water is properly, genuinely warm. This is the hot-clear-day pick.

THE FACTS

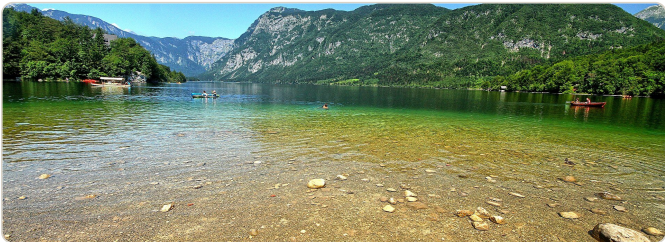
DRIVE FROM BLED	~40 min, to Ukanc
CABLECAR	~€33 return — approx (Aug 2026)
RUNNING HOURS	8:00 – 18:00
THE RIDE	4 minutes, up to 1,535 m
WALKING TIME	Gentle paths — as much or as little as you like
ASCENT	The cablecar does all of it
EXTRA	Free Orlova glava chairlift extends the top

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Wildflower meadows, cowbells, and the Triglav panorama from 1,535 m.
- The free Orlova glava chairlift, if we want to go a little higher.
- Bohinj's north shore afterwards — properly warm swimming in August.

THE HONEST BITS

- Gentle paths only for us. The Vogel summit trail has chains and is firmly off-menu.
- The cablecar runs 8:00–18:00, so the last ride down sets the shape of the day.



Photos, left to right: biosynthesis24 (CC BY 2.0, Jul) · Nick Savchenko (CC BY-SA 2.0, Jul) — via Wikimedia Commons

TURNAROUND & BAIL-OUT

This one is all optional extras. The top station on its own is a complete outing — meadows, view, lunch, back down. Everything past that is a choice we make in the moment, and the swim is always waiting at the bottom.

FOOD

Self-service food at the top station.

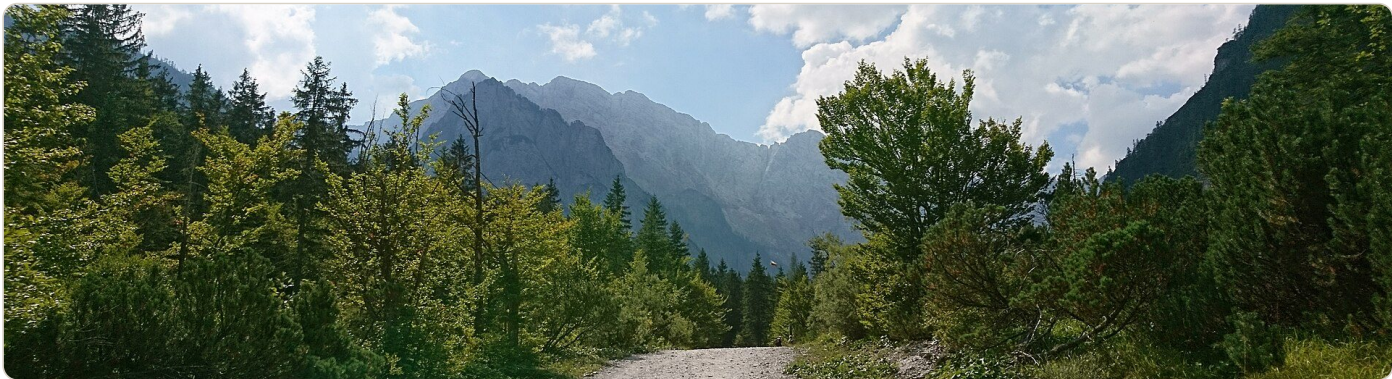


Photo: J.O. · CC BY-SA 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons · shot in August

The gentlest full outing on the menu: a wide gravel valley road, forty minutes each way, and a hundred and twenty metres of gain you will barely register — with Jalovec framed dead ahead the entire walk. There is food at Dom v Tamarju when we get there. Then on the way home we stop at Zelenci, five minutes of boardwalk to an emerald spring with sand visibly boiling in crystal water.

THE FACTS

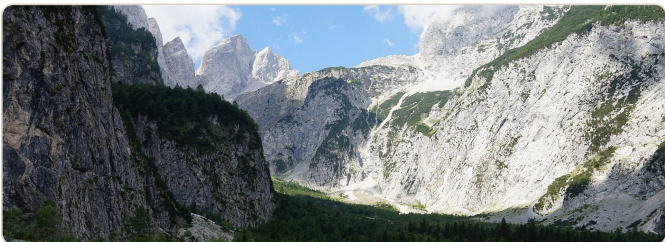
DRIVE FROM BLED	~40 min
PARKING	Planica Nordic Centre, ~€4 — approx (Aug 2026)
WALKING TIME	~40 min each way
ASCENT	~120 m, gentle
SURFACE	Wide gravel valley road
DESTINATION	Dom v Tamarju (food)
ON THE WAY HOME	Zelenci — free car park, 5-min boardwalk

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- Jalovec framed dead ahead for the entire length of the walk.
- The world-record ski-flying hill, right there at the car park — about €4 to go in if we are curious, approx (Aug 2026).
- Zelenci nature reserve: an emerald spring with the sand visibly boiling in crystal-clear water.

THE HONEST BITS

- Genuinely gentle throughout — 120 m spread over 40 minutes of wide gravel road.
- It is an out-and-back on the same road, so the way home looks like the way out.



Photos, left to right: Lan G. (CC BY-SA 4.0, Jul) · deargdoom57 (CC BY 2.0, Jul) — via Wikimedia Commons

TURNAROUND & BAIL-OUT

Turn back at any point and it is still a good walk — the valley view is there from the start. Zelenci is completely separate: a free car park and a five-minute boardwalk, so it stays on the table even if we skip the valley entirely.

FOOD

Dom v Tamarju, at the end of the valley road.

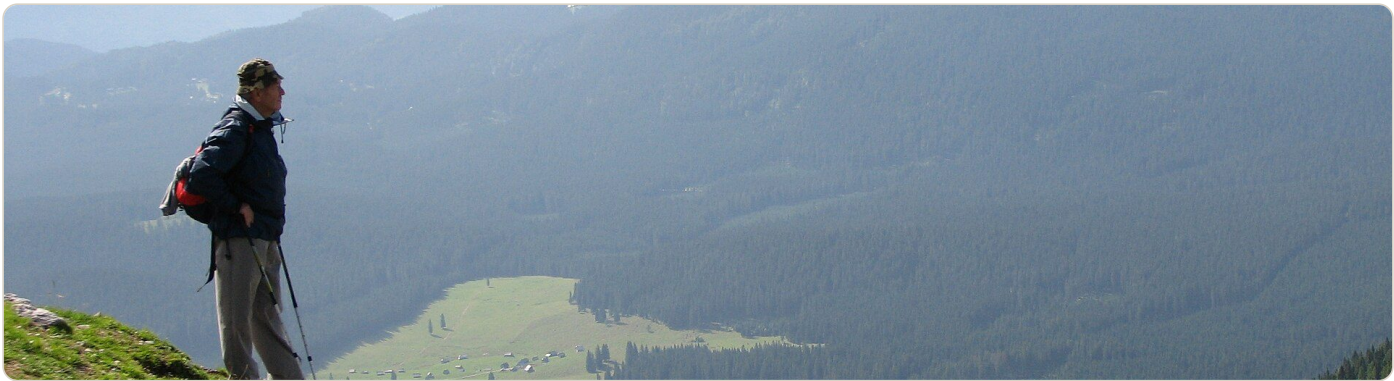


Photo: NH53 · CC BY 2.0 · via Wikimedia Commons · shot in August

The closest drive of the six and the cleverest shape, because we decide how big it gets over lunch rather than over breakfast. Stage one is an easy forest hour to Blejska koča and its pasture terrace. Stage two — only if it appeals, and only decided there — is famously the easiest 2,000er in the park: an open meadow ridge to a summit facing Triglav’s entire east face.

THE FACTS

DRIVE FROM BLED	~35 min — the closest of all six
PARKING	Medvedova konta forest car park — informal, free
STAGE 1 · WALKING	~1 h to Blejska koča na Lipanci
STAGE 1 · ASCENT	~280 m, easy forest track
STAGE 2 · WALKING	~1h15 each way to the summit
STAGE 2 · ASCENT	~420 m more, to 2,014 m
STAGE 2 · SURFACE	Open karst meadow ridge, walkable throughout

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

- An easy forest track up to Blejska koča na Lipanci, with food and a pasture terrace.
- Above the trees, an open karst meadow ridge — walkable the whole way, and famously the easiest 2,000er in the park.
- From the top: Triglav’s entire east face across the Krma valley — the biggest summit view of the six.

THE HONEST BITS

- Sun-exposed above the treeline.
- A summit bid wants to be topped out by 13:00, which means an 8:30 trailhead start — this is the **only** option that asks for an early alarm.
- On the way back we stay on the path away from the northern edge.



Photos, left to right: Jernej Furman (CC BY 2.0, Aug) · MZaplotnik (CC BY-SA 3.0, Jul) — via Wikimedia Commons

TURNAROUND & BAIL-OUT

This is the whole point of this one: stage two is decided *at the hut, over lunch* — never before. Stage one alone is a proper outing with food and a view. And if only one of us fancies the top, that is a solo round trip of about two hours while the other holds the terrace.

FOOD

Blejska koča na Lipanci — food and a pasture terrace at the top of stage one.

Choose by mood

If none of the detail helped, this probably will.

<i>"I want to be in the water."</i>	4 Vogel + Bohinj
<i>"Biggest possible view, smallest possible walk."</i>	3 Vrata Valley
<i>"Give me the postcard."</i>	2 Slemenova špica
<i>"It's hot — I want shade and a lazy start."</i>	1 Fusine + Zacchi
<i>"Gentle and pretty, all day long."</i>	5 Planica → Tamar
<i>"I want to feel like we climbed something."</i>	6 Debela peč
<i>"We slept badly and the alarm is the enemy."</i>	3 Vrata Valley
<i>"Short drive, long lunch, decide later."</i>	6 Debela peč (stage 1)

However we choose

True for all six.

- ✓ **None of these need booking.**
Every one of the six is walk-up. Nothing is reserved, nothing is lost by changing our minds.
- ✓ **We decide over breakfast.**
Pick whichever the morning actually feels like — that is the entire purpose of this menu.
- ✓ **Storm-radar check at lunch.**
One look at the radar while we are eating, wherever we happen to be.
- ✓ **1.5 L of water each, and hats.**
Non-negotiable on all six, including the shady one.
- ✓ **Cash for the mountain huts.**
Bring notes — huts are much happier with cash.

All six are good days.

There is no wrong answer here — only the one you fancy most over breakfast.