

## **PROGRAMM :**

### **Day 1:**

Alternative Route no 1 or group 1 :

We will start on Sept. 13th from my big pasture in Natters. You can choose this route 1 on your arrival on **Sept 12th** (an additional night to stay is absolutely no problem, just let me know).



Natters

You can also participate at Route 1 when you arrive on Sept 13th until 8:00 o'clock at the latest! We'll unload the animals, park the cars and trailers and saddle up.

We'll hit the trail at about 10 o'clock. At the latest!!!

The route 1 on the 13th will lead from Natters via – Gärberbach - Patsch – Waldweg to Ellbögen to the guesthouse Neuwirt in Ellbögen.

Duration of the hike: about 5 hours

Everyone who will arrive on the 12th can spent the night in the guesthouse „Neuwirth“ in Natters or any other location in Natters – e.g. Gasthof Stern/Natters or Gasthof Nattererboden.

Alternative Route 2 :

For people arriving on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> during the day at the Guesthouse “Neuwirth” in Ellbögen!

Your animals will be provided with a huge pasture. If the weather is really bad, we can also provide stables for 25 pack animals in Ellbögen!!

So you and your animals will arrive in Ellbögen/Guesthouse on the 13<sup>th</sup> either by foot (Group 1) or with the car/trailer (Group 2).

After your arrival the animals will be looked after (unsaddled and/or put in the pasture/stable).

So our quarters will be at the guesthouse “Neuwirth”. We will have dinner and Karl Mair and I will talk about what we have planned for the next few days. Karl will also talk about his passion and the tradition of animal packing in the region which has packing and trading routes that go back for more than 2000 years.



Our first day: we will cross under the „Europabrücke“.

The highlight will be a dia presentation from Franziskus Schmidt and Stephan Huslik from Bavaria, Germany. They wandered with two mules from Munich over the Alps to Rome, to the Abruzzi and **back again** in 1987/88.

Both will join us on our tour with one of my mules. They are really cool folks!!!

## Day 2:

### Sept 14th:

In the morning: Check on the animals and feed them. Then we'll have breakfast. Afterwards well saddle and pack up – have a quick talk about the route of the day and walk towards the next village Pfonz – up on a promising path with wonderful scenery to the Pfoner Oxalp where we will make a short break. Then we will head for our final destination of the day, the Arztaler Alp.

Duration of the hike: about 5 hours.



Arztaler Alp

Again: unpack the animals and make sure they are all right. They will stay on a big enclosed pasture.

After storing the saddles and tack we'll take quarter in the Arzतालalp and in the „Eisenbahnerhütte“ (roughly translated it means “the rail workers hut”).



The „Eisenbahnerhütte“

So the animals and tack (stored dryly) will stay in the Arzतालalp and some of us will have to sleep in the „Eisenbahnerhütte“ which is only a 5 minute walk from the Arzतालalp.

Nevertheless we'll have a good dinner together and a merry evening with music!!!!

Maybe we'll have another presentation on the region and its various routes of now and then....

Or the presentation will be given on the next day outside, if the weather is fine...

### **Day 3:**

If someone's legs don't feel too well today, it's no big deal.

Our faithful animals won't have to be looked after too much, since they are on the pasture.

We'll have a check on them and the tack.

After a nice breakfast we and our 4legged comrades will follow a circular track on this high valley. From the "Hochleger" to the small lakes to the direction of the "Knappenlöcher" and back or we take some other route from the Arzतालalp up to the "Rosenjoch". Both options are good, the decisions will be made according to the weather.

Duration: about 4 hours.

Day 3 will be very easy going and we'll have plenty of time to get to know each other, make friends and further plans.

We'll keep our accommodation on the Alp of the previous night.

Hopefully we'll have another merry evening....

### **Day 4:**

We'll take leave of all our packing friends and their animals.

Group / Alternative 1: Hike back to Natters. Duration about 6 ½ hours.

Group / Alternative 2: Hike back to Ellbögen. Duration about 2 hours.

End of the International pack-animal meeting.



For all those of you who are further motivated and fell in love with the region:

We can add 2 or 3 more days for a smaller group, depending on the weather, motivation and personal whim. This will have nothing to do with the actual Meeting it is just a non-binding option from me for those who want to stay a little longer.

We can make hikes up to 8 hours!

If you have any further questions, write me an Email or contact me on my mobile.

We deliberately chose a small number of participants, since we try to keep it family like and don't want to create a "folk festival" but try to have a nice pack animal meeting 2017.

We'll post route maps and further information in the course of time.

So, my dear fellow mule packers, now it's your turn to take some action!

I hope to see you soon. Best wishes and greetings from

Mulimax