

NEWT 2018: a week-long nude hiking on the Tyrolean Alps

Having been to NEWT every year since my first participation in 2016, this third NEWT of mine was a lovely time of meeting old friends and making new ones. There is an enchanting attraction in Alpine hiking that is quite indescribable and makes it irresistible for hikers to return each year almost religiously but while the views are always stunning and breathtaking, one must not forget that the mountains are untamed and can at times be quite unforgiving. Having slipped and fallen on a cattle grid last year which resulted in a badly bruised knee, I was determined this year to be much more careful and sure enough, everything went on smoothly.



NEWT 2018 was just as challenging as the earlier two that I took part in. Each hiker is well-advised to carry at least 1.5 litres of drinking water. It is not always that drinking water is available along the trails. For NEWT 2018, there seemed to be hardly any but we all made do with what we carried with us from the hut.

28 JULY 2018 - ARRIVAL AT THE HUT

Milling about and chatting with old friends and getting to know new ones was really fun and I could not help capturing a bit of the atmosphere in a selfie. Soon, it was time for dinner and Pascal, our most efficient and friendly organiser, began with a briefing.



29 JULY 2018 - THE FIRST DAY OF HIKING

It was a lovely sunny day and we hiked up to Ahornstein. On our way, we came across quite a few non-naturist hikers with whom we exchanged greetings and pleasantries. There were horses too which, to a selfie-addict like me, were nothing less than an invitation to take more photos:



Just look at the mountains behind us. Frankly, Pascal, Horst, Rainer and virtually everyone else took much better photos of this scenery. I simply placed my camera on a tripod and it snapped a photo every few seconds and this is the best I have from my own camera:



All the hiking left us pretty much hungry and thirsty and it was such a joy when we stumbled upon a tavern called Königsbergalm 1300. This was the same place we stopped at in NEWT 2016. The owner was perfectly naturist-friendly and a handful of guests he had at his pub were very friendly. It's moments like this that make me regret not knowing how to converse in German. Before we left, the owner and staff asked if we minded having a group photo taken at his pub. We were more than delighted to oblige. The tripod I lugged with me throughout all my hiking came in handy and once more I set up my camera to take a pic every few seconds. This is the best photo that captures everyone who was willing to be included in the photo together with the staff of the pub:



It was soon time to head back to the hut for our much needed rest before we started the next day's hike which proved to be the most exacting.

30 JULY 2018 - THE SECOND DAY

It was a tough second day for us because a large part of the hike was on scree slopes. One or two of us decided not to continue for fear that the return journey might prove a lot more difficult. But I went on and it was the right decision because the scenery was just what you would have expected in a Star Wars movie.

A group photo on the last grass patch before we went much higher



Indistinguishable from a NASA photo I once saw taken by the Viking on Mars:



31 JULY 2018 - THE THIRD DAY

We had a great hike on the second day but what made it even more interesting and rewarding was the highlight at the end of the trail - a refreshing waterfall.



1 AUGUST 2018 - THE FOURTH DAY

An enjoyable hike and again, there was some reward at the end of it. Some lambs came to greet us. All they wanted was to be included in selfies.



2 AUGUST 2018 - THE FIFTH DAY

We had an easy hike today, after which, we went back to the waterfall. Easy though the hike might have been, the view was still no less spectacular. As you can see in the first photo below which was just a simple photo taken at a stop we had, the distant mountain enveloped in mist gives the place an air that is surreal and reminiscent of some forgotten scene In Tolkien's Middle Earth.

The waterfall we went to was really a collection of a few tiny waterfalls. I went to a quieter segment of the waterfall to take photographs.



I should be quite remiss if I did not post a photo of a cute little pig which grouchyly greeted us just before we started our hike this morning. It seemed to detest my company and it refused to pose with me for a friendly photograph.



3 AUGUST 2018 - THE SIXTH DAY

I had a quick breakfast because I was on kitchen duty today.



After that, it was time to wish everyone goodbye. A hearty handshake with Pascal, our leader, organiser, friend, professional photographer and the most important person without whom, there would have been no NEWT 2018. I couldn't resist taking a final pic of the nicest bunch of people you can ever find, just as Horst, Rainer, John (of Ireland) and I were forcibly torn away from such delightful company but we had a long journey to Saxony - for more naturist hiking which is the subject of my next report.



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