

DREI SCHWESTERN 2053m.

Feldkirch / Fraztanz - Amerlügen (763m.) - Feldkircher Hütte (1204m.) - Vorderälpele (1298m.)
- Rätikonhöhenweg Nord - Unterälpele (1474m.) - Prafazei - Drei Schwestern (2053m.) - Same way back.

Starting point: Small parking lot next to a supply elevator on the Herrenweg in Amerlügen (763m.) [Feldkirch - Fraztanz 494m.].

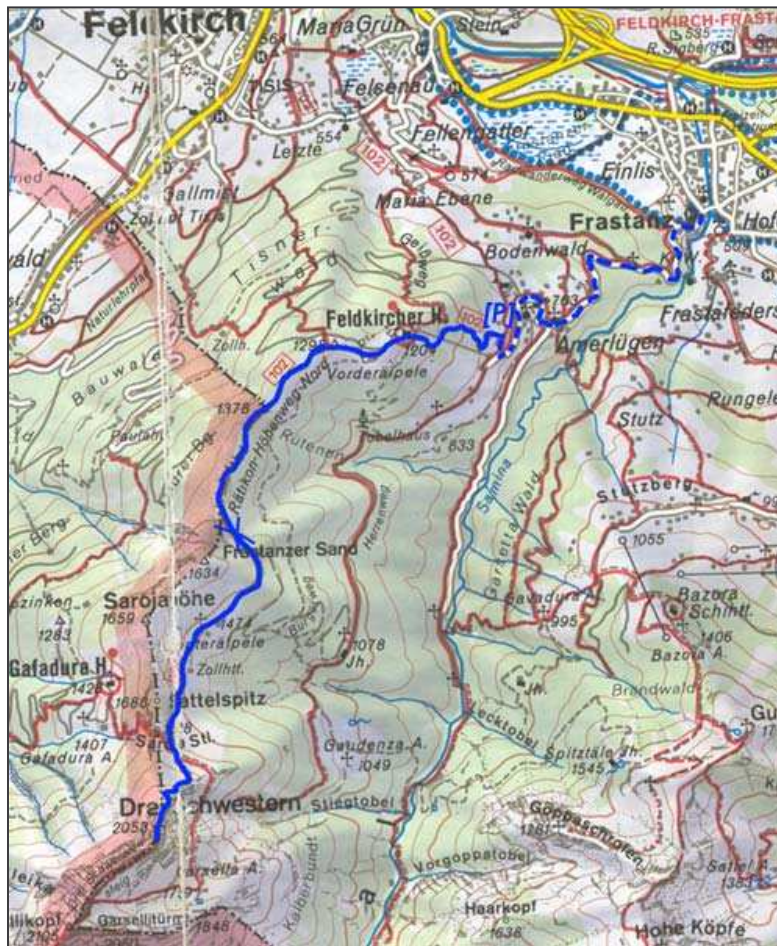
Total time: about 6½.

Difficulties: Extraordinary climb of a peculiar mountain. First reasonably steep through the woods, then via a provisions road to the foot of the actual climb. Here first through Latchen (see vocabulary) zigzagging upwards after which large rock parts follow. Here a good worn out and layed out climb follows with the help of several steel cables, wooden steps and two iron staircases (ca 20 to 25 steps each). Spectacular trip and very beautiful perspective (all the way to the Bodensee). Long trip to do in one day (passing the night is possible in the Feldkircher Hütte).

Rating: **** / I + [A]

Why worthy?: Excellent layed out climb through high rocks. Spectacular perspective from the top.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:



To Amerlügen: In *Fraztanz* we follow the signposts towards *Parzelle Amerlügen* and over a narrow road we reach it. At a chapel we go right and further up, past *Glf Alpenrose* and eventually we reach a small parking lot (with a small supply elevator). Here signposts direct to the *Feldkircher Hütte* and *Drei Schwestern*.

We follow the steep forest path that goes up towards *Feldkircher Hütte*. After about three quarter of an hour till one hour we reach the hut and the nearby located television post. After this steep climb a provisions road follows which goes upwards gently. We continue our road *southwards* towards *Hinterälpele* and *Drei Schwestern*. From there we see our final destination high above us. The provisions road gradually goes upwards towards *Hinterälpele* (1474m.). Past the stables we continue our road.

The provisions road passes over in to a small path through the meadows. After about an hour walking from the *Feldkircher Hütte* we come to a junction and a sign '*Prafazei*'. Here we leave the meadows and go further in the southern direction (keep to the right hand path) over a small path through the *Latchen*. Watch out: the stones are treacherously slippery, even at dry weather.

First through the Latchen and zigzagging further upwards until we reach the bigger boulders. Here we meet our first obstacle: a circa 20 to 25 rungs high iron staircase that is connected perpendicular to the rock surface. After this many passages through the rocks follow of which we would hardly expect them to exist! Steel wires and wooden steps help us though a long ravine between two rocks. Again an iron staircase follows and then a ridge, just like a tiny mountain pass. Now we reach the first real summit (the path descends a bit again afterwards). On the top a small border marker is located. There we are on the top of Drei Schwestern, where we have a beautiful view on the outstretching surroundings.

The way back is via the same route, because this is the most beautiful and most spectacular (alternative is walking down from the summit in the southern direction to the signpost towards *Garsellaalpe*. After this another sign follows back to 'Präfazei' - which leads you back on to the return road).

My father and I made this tour during the summer of 1995 and 1996.

Difficulties:

* = Moderately easy tour (also perfect for a late afternoon walk). 2 hours max.

** = With some physical condition, no difficulties. From 1 to 3 hours max.

*** = Average tour, a moderately, good physical condition is needed! 2 till 4 hours max.

**** = Difficult tour. Sometimes you have to use your hands to climb (not all the way, just some parts). Between 3 and 6 hours.

***** = Very difficult tour. Here you're at the boundary of 'real' mountaineering. The 'climbing factor' takes the overhand. Mostly between 5 and 7 hours.

ps: some tours can be different than these ratings (like: a ** tour, with a duration of only 2 hours).***
