



## **Bike tour from the Dolomites to Venice**

The June bike and walking tour is advisable for quite fit people who are used to cycling, suitable for families with children aged from 14.

The September tour is advisable for those who want to ride all the way and should therefore have good cycling skills and physical training. Ski lifts will take you up with your muscular or electric bikes, and then you'll ride down the slopes.

The average gradient is of 15%, but only in some stretches.

### **PROGRAM**

16th June 2020 or 15th September 2020: Lake Garda- Ortisei as far as the Dolomites core

Departure from the arranged meeting-point, either airport or station, with bikes already loaded on the van or with your own bikes on request. Then off to Ortisei, a hamlet in the independent province of Bolzano in Trentino – Alto Adige. Ortisei, located 1236 m above sea level, is the most populated centre in Gardena Valley. After a short ride, also on a dirt road if you wish, you will be visiting an amazing spot of typical local architecture hidden in the wood. Lunch break, coffee and traditional, delicious Strudel pastry to be tasted along the avenue.

Then ride on along the road people used to supply food and ammunition in Alta Badia during the Great War. Reach Val Gardena up a scenic, evocative road and then down a long slope to a little village in Alta Badia, in the heart of Ladina land. Average challenging: 44 km, 1267 m ascent and 1275m descent. You may want to avoid ascent to the pass by getting the coach. Easy/average challenging: 24,5 km, 666m ascent and 653m descent. Dinner and overnight stay.

17th June 2020 or 16th September 2020 Alta Badia ( naturalistic-cultural itinerary)

Departure from the hotel at 8.30 off on our bikes and to a little village 10 km away in the Ladina land. Ride up to Santa Croce, by ski lift if you wish, admiring the amazing Dolomite rocky landscape. Then either ride or walk down the popular Armentara lawns to enjoy their blossoming; lunch break at a lodge and then ride back to the hotel. In case we get back early, we could drive to a typical valley hosting a historical Mill village. The tour is an easy 30-minute walk, to discover the culture, tradition and history of the Ladin people. Dinner and overnight stay.



35 km all-bike leg: 1185m ascent and 1051 descent, average challenging slopes. Quite easy walk and ride leg, or by ski lift. Good riding skills required for the descent ride from Santa Croce.

18th June 2020 or 17th September 2020 San Cassiano-Cortina (historical itinerary)

Departure from the hotel and ride to the Val Parola Pass and the Fort, now Museum of The Great War. This is where the Austro-Hungarian and Italian border used to be and fight for over a year and a half, during the First World War. We will reach some spots where you will better understand the fighting techniques and the function of the big dug rocks, which served as check and defence point. This was also the “ Coppi Peak” in the Giro d’Italia in 1977.

We will then head to Falzarego Pass and the ski lift, to reach 2225m altitude. We will be walking from the lodge to the old trenches. Average challenging all-bike leg: 46,3 km, 848m ascent and 2217m descent. Average challenging bike and walking leg: 22,6 km ride, 791m ascent, 791m descent plus walking tour.

We will drive on to Cortina where you may enjoy SPA and swimming pool in a nearby hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

19th June 2020 or 18th September Cortina-Dobbiaco (cultural-historical itinerary)

Departure from the hotel and ride to Dobbiaco along the old railway track used between 1921 and 1964. It is a partly paved, mostly dirt road path, famous for a well known running race along lake Landro and Lake Dobbiaco. From there we will cycle on to San Candido, amazing village on the border with Austria, and if not exhausted we might reach the Loacker plant and factory outlet. The visit to the interactive pastry shop is on request.

Back to Dobbiaco and drive to Cortina. Free time, dinner and overnight stay. Easy leg from Cortina to Dobbiaco: 31,7 km, 383m ascent and 352m descent.

20th June 2020 or 19th September 2020 Cortina-Venezia (cultural itinerary)

Departure from the hotel at 9.30 and ride on a partly paved and partly dirt road path to Pieve di Cadore. Lunch break.



Visit Tiziano Vecellio's native home, whose art was influenced by Cadore's nature till he became a great artist in magnificent Venice, where he lived and worked. Foundation analysis show that Venetian wooden piling comes from this area. The tour will take us to the Museum of Glasses, where a tourist guide will lead us on a journey through the importance of sight, tools and fashion. A surprise guided visit will end our day. Dinner and overnight stay. Easy leg: 33 km, 208m ascent and 547m descent.

21st June 2020 or 20th September 2020 Venice

Departure at 8.00, reach Venice by van. Walking tour to San Marco square, with entrance to museums and short sightseeing. Visit the wonderful Basilica, short gondola ride and the walk again to the bus. Taste a delicious appetizer with prosecco and snacks. There's nothing much to add to the Venetian Wonder.

From Venice back to the arranged spots for your comeback.

## **One-day extension on Lake Garda**

### **On Monday, the day before the one set by program**

Arrival in Desenzano on Lake Garda and leave luggage at the hotel. Reach the starting point by van, ring-route around the hills surrounding the lake, half paved, half dirt road. Visit Pedenghe castle, Manerba fortress and the beach, then back to the starting point. San Biagio island, also known as the rabbits' island, can be reached by boat for a coffee break or a swim. 46,8 km leg: 704m ascent and 714m descent. Average challenging and physical training.

### **Important notes:**

- to make the journey easier customised tour for group of minimum 6 people are available (with different dates or walking-riding activities); otherwise groups will set off on the arranged dates.
- electrical bike rental on request with an extra charge if you require more than two already included in the price of the trip.
- Registration within 60 days before departure.



- The van is equipped with a small workshop for bike maintenance.
- Compulsory helmet.
- Schedule may vary due to technical and organisational problems.
- Accommodation, tickets, and insurance are provided by the Italian tour operator.
- Either a decrease or an increase in fee will be requested for accommodation in single or triple room.

#### THE COSTS INCLUDE:

- Bikes (MTB Trek 8Xcaliber and n. 2 e-bikes Trek power fly 5+)
- Tour by Mercedes Sprinter van with qualified driver, pick up and drop off at arranged points; the van is accessorised with 220 volt outlets, fridge, DVD screen and indoor bike compartment.
- Tour by Italian MTB guide.
- Half board accommodation at selected restaurants and 3/4 stars typical and family-run hotels, in double rooms.
- Tickets for historical and cultural guided tours selected by the operator.
- Allianz-Globy Rosso medical and luggage insurance for Italian and residing foreign citizens.
- Baggage, sports equipment and e-bikes collection - in case you won't be using the provided ones- at the arranged spots in Italy; return transport.
- Ski lift tickets where required.
- Middle mountain guide where required.
- Agency fees.
- End tour appetizer in Venice.
- 12 euro fares for entrances in Venice.
- Cost refund for ski lift non-use.

#### FEES DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Extra charge if you require more than two e-bikes already included in the price of the trip.
- Entrance to the swimming pool in Cortina.
- Compulsory insurance for foreigners not residing in Italy.
- Food, drinks, tips, extras and all that is not above mentioned.