

Via Claudia Augusta

Across the Alps from AUGSBURG to LAKE GARDA – sporty

The cycle path leads from the local recreation area of the Augsburg forest along the Lech river through botanical treasures of the Lech heathlands to Schongau. In the distance the silhouette of the Bavarian Alps can already be seen in a tender haze. Past the Füssener Lechfall, the cycle path continues along the Lech into Tyrol's Ausserfern. The rugged elegance of the Lechtal Alps and the Zugspitze mountains flank the cycle path as far as the Ehrwalder Becken, a protected moorland, in whose subsurface parts of a Roman "beating road" of the *Via Claudia Augusta* are preserved. From Biberwier an organised shuttle-transfer takes you to Fernsteinsee Castle and the cycle path, embedded in the amazing Tyrolian landscape, meanders through the picturesque Gurgltal (Gurgl Valley) and into the Upper Inn Valley until Landeck.

A sporty, serpentine like ascent of approx. 700 metres awaits you between Pfunds and Nauders by Reschensee lake water reservoir. From there you take the Adige Cycle Path, along the playful river, through the lush fruit growing landscapes of the sun-drenched Vinschgau valley, via the spa town of Merano and the idyllic shimmering Lake Caldaro to the lovely Castelfeder holiday region. The wine gardens and numerous manorial castles nestle upon the hills and high plateaus around Lake Caldaro and the South Tyrolean lower land flows seamlessly into the famous Trentino. It seems just a stone's throw from Trento through the prolific Vallagarina to the deep blue lake Garda and the cragged cliffs and delicate pink blossoms of oleander bushes by Riva del Garda.

Highlights

-  Roman museum in the Augsburg armoury
-  Historic Augsburg water management (UNESCO world heritage site)
-  Natural element water and wildly romantic mountainside – appealing and vast
-  Sunken church tower of Altgraun (14th century), Reschenstausee water reservoir
-  Original milestone of Rabland, city museum of Bolzano
-  Lake Caldaro, South Tyrolean Wine Road
-  Tridentum. The Roman underground city - S.A.S.S., Trento
-  City tower/Torre Apponale, Moated castle/Rocca di Riva, Riva del Garda

Route characteristics

-  Mostly paved/asphalted bike paths, farm roads, quiet side roads and local thoroughfares
-  Transfer across the toughest ascent across Fernpass (Biberwier - Fernsteinsee lake)
-  Ascent of approx. 700 metres between Pfunds and Reschen pass
-  From Reschenstausee water reservoir to Merano are some longer descents

Level of difficulty

Touring bicycle 

Pedelec/E-Bike 

Suitable for families with children from the age of approx. 14 years (appropriate cycling enthusiasm required)

Arrival | Travel time | Type of trip

- ✓ Every Sunday from May 1st to September 25th 2026
- ✓ 9 days | 8 nights (incl. days of arrival and departure)
- ✓ Stretch trip - approx. 495 cycling kilometres
- ✓ Individual cycling trip
- ✓ From 2 persons (single travellers on application)

Itinerary

Day 1: Individual journey to Augsburg

Visit of the Roman provincial capital „Augusta Vindelicorum“

Day 2: Augsburg – Region Schongau (approx. 85 km)

The place name Augsburg derives from the Roman name of the town „Augusta Vindelicorum“, which was founded in 15 B.C. under the rule of Emperor Augustus. Augsburg's popularity however, was established with its role as a Fugger town. Therefore, a visit of the Fuggerei, which is the world's oldest project for social housing still in use today, is a must. Schongau features a picturesque old town and almost completely preserved town wall.

Day 3: Region Schongau – Nature Park region Reutte (approx. 55 km)

Having left the beautiful old town of Schongau the cycling path along River Lech takes you into the Tyrol. Before heading over the border from Germany to Austria the beautiful fairy tale-like castle Neuschwanstein awaits you.

Day 4: Nature Park region Reutte – Landeck (approx. 65 km | without transfer approx. 75 km)

Shortly after Reutte the “Ehrenberger Klause”, a fortress built in the time of the Thirty Years' War that is well worth seeing can be visited. From Lermoos or Biberwier respectively you can take the VCA-Pickaback shuttle to cover the demanding route up Fern Pass. From Fernstein castle you cycle past Nassereith and the picturesque Gurgltal Valley to Imst. A “beery” adventure awaits you at the microbrewery at Starkenberg castle. From the town of Imst you will pedal along Inn Valley to the town of Landeck.

Day 5: Landeck – Holiday region Lago di Resia & Alta Venosta (approx. 85 km)

Next to river Inn the cycle way leads from Landeck to the so called Oberes Gericht and on to Pfunds. Past Pfunds the cycle way is on swiss state territory for approx. 10km. From Martina/Unterengadin you'll conquer 400m of height distance along the winding but not too steep road of Norbertshöhe. A short coast down to Nauders is followed by a short and easy uphill passage where you cross the border to Italy at Reschen Pass and with it the main Alpine ridge. You cycle downwards towards Malles past Reschenstausee reservoir with the sunken church tower of Altgraun, one of the most famous photo motifs of Italy. Enjoy the first evening on South Tyrolean soil and enjoy strolling through the old alleyways of the town.

Day 6: Holiday region Lago di Resia & Alta Venosta – Merano (approx. 65 km)

Today you cross the entire Val Venosta. The route leads from an altitude of more than 1,000m down to the town of Merano that is located at an altitude of 350m. Most of the route follows the course of River Adige. From your starting place this pleasant cycling stretch leads down to the smallest town of the Alps, the town of Glorenza. Past the marble town of Laas you get to Naturns and eventually – past the impressive Kastellbell castle – to the spa town of Merano. Enjoy an evening walk through town along the “Passer” promenade surrounded by subtropical flora.

Day 7: Merano – Castelfeder Holiday Region (approx. 50 - 60 km)

There is plenty to see along this route: Niederlana’s famous Schnatterpeckaltar, the largest Gothic wing altar in the Alpine area, the highest church tower of the South Tyrol in Terlan and a great number of fortresses and ruins on both valley slopes.

After a short stop at South Tyrol’s capital city of Bolzano you have a wonderful occasion of refreshing your legs at Lake Caldaro. Today’s tour ends at Castelfeder Holiday Region with the towns of Ora, Montagna, Egna and Salorno, which is where the German speaking South Tyrol ends.

Day 8: Castelfeder Holiday Region - Riva del Garda/Torbole sul Garda (approx. 80 - 90 km)

You should know a couple of Italian words by now. Ride along River Adige towards Trento where you can visit the old town with its dome and Castle Buonconsiglio. Soon after Rovereto you leave River Adige behind at Mori, ride across Passo San Giovanni (287m) and enjoy the beautiful view over Lake Garda from the top. After the descent down to Torbole you ride along the lakeside to the destination of your sporty bike travel, Riva del Garda.

Day 9: Individual Return Journey or Extension

Included Services | Price per Person | Extras

Included services

- ✓ 8 Overnight stays including large breakfast buffet in hotels of the 3-star category *
- ✓ Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- ✓ Shuttle transfer from Biberwier to Fernsteinsee lake
- ✓ Reutte Aktiv Card (reduced admission to Thermal Resort Ehrenberg, Adventure Museum...)
- ✓ Tirol West Card (reduced admission to Museums, such as Via Claudia Augusta-Centre...)
- ✓ Extensive travel papers | Navigation app | GPS-data available via Navigation App
- ✓ Phone service daily from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Price

per person

- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from May 1 st)	Euro 1.429,00
- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from May 15 th)	Euro 1.519,00
- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from July 15 th)	Euro 1.559,00
- Single room surcharge	Euro 375,00

Locally varying charges (local taxes, etc.) - if applicable - are not included in the tour price; payable on site

Extras

per person

- Rental touring bicycle classic	Euro 105,00
- Rental touring bicycle superior	Euro 185,00
- Rental of Pedelec/E-Bike	Euro 260,00
- Rental of E-MTB	Euro 360,00
- Extra night in Augsburg in DR/B&B	Euro 89,00
- Extra night in Augsburg in SR/B&B	Euro 128,00
- Extra night at Lake Garda in DR/B&B	Euro 120,00
- Extra night at Lake Garda in SR/B&B	Euro 182,00
- Return transfer Lake Garda – Augsburg incl. bicycle (every Tues, Thurs, Sun)	Euro 240,00

* Restaurant recommendations for dinner in all stage towns can be found in the travel information after booking