

Alpe Adria cycle path












Across the Alps from SALZBURG to GRADO – classic

A cycling tour across the Alps to the Adriatic Sea - it literally "smells" of fresh alpine meadows, the treetops sway in the alpine landscape and the sun flashes between the mountain peaks.

There is a colourful scenario between mountain and valley in the Alpine area, until the wide lagoon of Grado the salty breeze of the Adriatic welcomes you.

On your cycling tour you will cycle through the idyllic Salzach valley and the Gastein valley and cross the impressive high mountain landscape of the Hohe Tauern by train. Across the sunny Drau valley and the wildly rugged Canal valley you reach the fertile hilly landscape of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. On the Via Julia Augusta you cycle via the historic city of Aquileia to the picturesque lagoon of Grado.

Highlights

-  Culture and nature in the Mozart city of Salzburg; Hohensalzburg Fortress, Mirabell Palace with Mirabell Gardens, Palace park and water feature in Hellbrunn Palace, birthplace of W. A. Mozart, ...
-  Hallein salt works town with salt mine
-  Pongau Cathedral, St. Johann in Pongau
-  Impressive mountain worlds of the Hohe Tauern, Carnic and Julian Alps
-  Renaissance castle Porcia, Spittal an der Drau
-  Railroad path Pontebbana
-  Cathedral in the old town of Gemona
-  Gemona del Friuli
-  Piazza della Libertà, Udine
-  Basilica with baptistry, archaeological sites - UNESCO World Heritage Site, Aquileia
-  Sunny island and historic fishing town Grado

Route characteristics

-  Routing on mostly well-maintained bike paths and low-traffic side roads







Level of difficulty

Touring bicycle 

Pedelec/E-Bike 

Also suitable for families with children/teenagers with an affinity for bikes

Arrival | Travel time | Type of trip

-  Every Wednesday from May 1st to October 2nd 2024
-  10 days | 9 nights (incl. days of arrival and departure)
-  Stretch trip - approx. 355-405 cycling kilometres
-  Individual cycling trip
-  From 2 persons (single travellers on application)
-  Non schedule arrival dates: minimum of 5 persons on request

Itinerary

Day 1: Individual journey to Salzburg

A cycling tour could not start more impressively than in Salzburg, the city of Mozart.

In the beautiful old town, one baroque highlight follows the next.

And - don't forget - take some Mozartkugeln with you for the trip to the sea 😊

Day 2: Salzburg – Golling (approx. 35 km)

With a view of the Hohensalzburg Fortress you leave the city. The first part of the tour leads you along the Salzach river. On the way you will pass Hellbrunn Palace - the former summer residence of the Salzburg prince-bishops. For more than 400 years, the extraordinary water features have delighted young and old. On the Tauern cycle path, the journey continues in the direction of Hallein, known for its crooked town houses and above all for its white gold - salt. A highlight in the stage place is the Gollinger waterfall, which pours down an impressive 75 meters in two stages.

Day 3: Golling – St. Johann im Pongau (approx. 35 km)

Today's cycling stage begins with an ascent to Pass Lueg (approx. 150 hm). At the height of the pass it is worth a hike along the secured trail down to the impressive "Salzachöfen". The caves, which are formed by the unrestrained force of the Salzach mountain river reveal a wildly romantic water spectacle between the Hagen and Tennen mountains. Surrounded by the massive mountain ranges, you cycle through the Salzach gorge and follow the Salzach river until you see the imposing towers of the Pongau cathedral, the landmark of St. Johann, welcomes you from afar.

Day 4: St. Johann im Pongau – Bad Gastein (approx. 55 km)

The journey continues through the tranquil Gastein Valley. Until the beginning of the 20th century, it was only accessible via narrow mountain paths. Framed by the peaks of the Hohe Tauern, you cycle along the Gasteiner Ache. Passing Dorfgastein and Bad Hofgastein, you reach the famous spa town of Bad Gastein. The "Montecarlo of the Alps", as the town is often called, is known for its many magnificent hotels from the "Bel Époque" period, which impressively characterize the townscape. The main attraction is the Gastein waterfall, which is fed by a total of 17 springs.

Day 5: Bad Gastein – Spittal an der Drau (approx. 40 km + train)

Today you cycle on to Böckstein, to the north portal of the Tauber lock, to take the train to Mallnitz.

Surrounded by the foothills of the imposing mountains of the Hohe Tauern National Park, you cycle down into the Mölltal valley and follow the Möll downstream on the Glockner cycle path. The valley widens noticeably and from Möllbrücke you are already accompanied by the Drau cycle path to Spittal an der Drau. The urban heart of Upper Carinthia is resplendent with its well-kept Renaissance Porcia Castle and the associated town garden and forms the cultural and social meeting point right in the center of the cosy small town.

Day 6: Spittal an der Drau – Villach (approx. 35 km)

Today's cycle tour takes you along the Drau river to Villach, which is particularly famous for its cheerful carnival guild and its lavish festivities on church day. The well-kept medieval town center nestles on the banks of the Drau river, bars and cafés invite you to enjoy - the Mediterranean climate characterizes the serenity and cosy ambience of Villach. If your daily schedule allows, we recommend a swim in one of the warm lakes close to the city.

Day 7: Villach – Venzone and environs (approx. 85-90 km, or approx. 40-60 km + train ride, ticket not included)

Following the river Gail, you leave Villach behind, and soon you say goodbye to Austria and hello to Italy. In the border triangle of Italy-Austria-Slovenia stretches the Canal valley, the centre of which is the Italian border town of Tarvis. Austrians, Slovenians and Italians have lived together here for centuries - three major European language families - Germanic, Slavic and Romance - meet directly here.

The Alpe Adria cycle route continues in the Canal valley following the course of the impressive former Pontebbana-train track and from the saddle of your bike you can enjoy the attraction of this section and the beauty of the Friulian Alpine region.

If you wish, you can take the train (ticket not included) to Ugovizza and thus shorten part of the route. The "lavender town" of Venzone has been included in the list of the "Borghi più belli d'Italia", the most beautiful villages in Italy and with its cosy squares it truly invites you to linger.

Day 8: Venzone and environs – Udine (approx. 55 km)

Situated at the southern exit of the Canal valley and on the foothills of the Julian Alps, the small town of Gemona del Friuli is considered one of the most beautiful historic towns in Friuli Venezia Giulia. The townscape is dominated by the majestic Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, which is definitely worth a visit. The splendid hills full of lush vines line your path and invite you to taste the tasty wines.

The Venetian-influenced city of Udine exudes peace and tranquillity, while sipping a coffee at the "piazza" or during a stroll through the city centre, you can admire important buildings of the late Gothic and Renaissance.

Day 9: Udine – Grado (approx. 55 km)

Today's cycling tour takes you through the flat landscape of the northern Italian plain. Impressive cities such as the star-shaped Palmanova and Aquileia, once known as one of the most powerful cities of the Mediterranean and famous for its valuable historical archaeological sites, lie on your way.

Accompanied by a breeze from the Scirocco, you will glide past reed beds and water canals and reach Grado, a historically important fishing town and one of the most popular seaside resorts of the northern Adriatic Sea.

Day 10: Individual Return Journey or Extension

Included Services | Price per Person | Extras

Included services

- ✓ Overnight stays including breakfast in guesthouses and hotels of the 3- and 4-star category
- ✓ Videobriefing
- ✓ Luggage transport from accommodation to accommodation
- ✓ Train ride Tauern lock: Böckstein-Mallnitz incl. bicycle
- ✓ Well planned routes
- ✓ Detailed travel documents (route maps, route description, sights, important telephone numbers)
- ✓ Navigation-App
- ✓ Phone service daily from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Price per person

- Accommodation in a double room * (from 27.04. & 28.09.)	Euro 1.299,00
- Accommodation in a double room * (from 11.05. & 05.09.)	Euro 1.399,00
- Accommodation in a double room * (25.05. – 04.09.)	Euro 1.499,00
- Single room surcharge	Euro 399,00

Extras

- Rental of 21-gear touring bicycle	Euro 109,00
- Rental Bike TOP (unisex – men's model on request)	Euro 185,00
- Rental of Pedelec/E-Bike	Euro 269,00
- Extra night in Salzburg in DR/B&B *	Euro 89,00
- Extra night in Salzburg in SR/B&B *	Euro 138,00
- Extra night in Grado in DR/B&B *	Euro 89,00
- Extra night in Grado in SR/B&B *	Euro 128,00
- Return transfer Grado-Salzburg (every Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat)	Euro 175,00/pers.+39,00/own bike

* Any local taxes that may be due are not included and are payable locally

Not included services: everything not explicitly mentioned under the point "Included services" (e.g.: Travel to the return at the end of the tour; drinks, tourist tax and all extras; lunch, dinner; entrance fees not mentioned; bicycle rental and travel insurance).