











Alpe Adria cycle path

Across the Alps from SALZBURG to GRADO – sporty



In one week across the Alps to the Adriatic Sea - it smells like fresh alpine meadows, the treetops sway in the alpine landscape, the sun flashes between the mountain peaks. There is a wide ranged and colourful scenario between mountain and valley in the alpine region, until the wide lagoon of Grado and a salty breeze of the Adriatic Sea 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
-  The demanding section over the Lueg pass can be shortened by train







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, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from April 27th to October 5th 2024
-  8 days | 7 nights (incl. days of arrival and departure)
-  Stretch trip - approx. 335-405 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 cycle tour couldn't start more impressively than in the Mozart city of Salzburg; in the beautiful old town, one baroque highlight follows the next.

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

Day 2: Salzburg – Bischofshofen/St. Johann (approx. 65 km)

You leave the city with a view of Hohensalzburg Fortress. The first section takes you along the Salzach. On the way, you will pass Hellbrunn Palace - the former summer residence of the Salzburg prince-bishops. The extraordinary trick fountains have been delighting young and old for more than 400 years. The journey continues along the Tauern Cycle Path towards Hallein, known for its crooked town houses and above all for its white gold - salt. Surrounded by massive mountain ranges, you cycle through the Salzachklamm gorge. The imposingly towering Pongau Cathedral, the landmark of St. Johann, welcomes you from afar.

Day 3: Bischofshofen/St. Johann – 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 4: Bad Gastein – Villach (approx. 80 km + train – mostly downhill)

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 the Drau cycle path accompanies you to Villach, which is particularly famous for its cheerful carnival guild and its lavish festivities on church day. If your plans for the day allow, we recommend a swim in one of the warm lakes close to the town.

Day 5: 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 Tarvisio or Ugovizza and thus shorten part of the route.

Day 6: Venzone/surroundings – 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 7: 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 8: Individual departure 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: Bockstein-Mallnitz incl. bicycle
- ✓ 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 1.099,00
- Accommodation in a double room * (from 11.05. & 05.09.)	Euro 1.139,00
- Accommodation in a double room * (25.05.–04.09.)	Euro 1.219,00
- Single room surcharge	Euro 309,00

Extras

- Rental of 21-gear touring bicycle	Euro 99,00
- Rental Bike TOP (unisex – men's model on request)	Euro 169,00
- Rental of Pedelec/E-Bike	Euro 249,00
- 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).