

# Via Claudia Augusta










## Across the Alps

### from AUGSBURG via VERONA to PESCHIERA del 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 Gurgital (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. Flanked by porphyry walls to the left and olive groves to the right the Adige cycle path leads steadily its way to Verona. Broad moraine hills, flooded with sunlight, as well as overhanging giant trees in the nature park of Mincio river, accompany you on your way to the cosy harbour town of Peschiera 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 (14<sup>th</sup> 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
-  Anfiteatro Arena, Ponte Pietra, Castelvechio, Verona
-  Fortification and city centre of Peschiera del Garda, UNESCO world heritage site

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> to September 25<sup>th</sup> 2024
- ✓ 10 days | 9 nights (incl. days of arrival and departure)
- ✓ Stretch trip - approx. 580 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 –Belluno Veronese and environs** (approx. 85 - 95 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. Past Trento you’ll pass small towns like Rovereto and Pilcante to Avio or Belluno Veronese. They say that this is where the best wine is made since the 15th century. Even though Veronese is less than 10 km away from Lake Garda there is a lot less touristic ado. Enjoy the rural ambience over a glass of local wine.

**Day 9: Belluno Veronese and environs – Peschiera del Garda** (approx. 80 km)

Verona almost in sight, you have to overcome a short ascent in order to reach the city of Romeo & Juliet. After a stop in Verona you reach the end of your sporty tour, the beautiful city of Peschiera del Garda which is located at the very south end of Lake Garda. This last stretch follows country roads and as of Vallegio sul Mincio follows the beautiful cycle way along Mincio River.

**Day 10: Individual Return Journey or Extension**

## Included Services | Price per Person | Extras

### Included services

- ✓ 9 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 | GPS-data available on demand
- ✓ Local tax in all places of accommodation
- ✓ Phone service daily from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

### Price per person

- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from May 1 <sup>st</sup> )	Euro 1.525,00
- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from May 15 <sup>th</sup> )	Euro 1.579,00
- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from July 15 <sup>th</sup> )	Euro 1.619,00
- Single room surcharge	Euro 345,00

### Extras

- Rental of 21-gear touring bicycle	Euro 130,00
- Rental of Pedelec/E-Bike	Euro 285,00
- Extra night in Augsburg in DR/B&B	Euro 80,00
- Extra night in Augsburg in SR/B&B	Euro 108,00
- Extra night in Peschiera d.G. in DR/B&B	Euro 99,00
- Extra night in Peschiera d.G. in SR/B&B	Euro 139,00
- Return transfer Peschiera d.G.-Augsburg	on request
- Vehicle transfer Augsburg-Peschiera d.G.	on request

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