

Via Claudia Augusta “Altinate” – The Original

Across the alps from DONAUWÖRTH to QUARTO d’Altino/VENICE

On the first stages of your bike tour, you will be accompanied by the Lech River which, with its sediment, laid forests, imposing barrages and weirs, as well as its historical towns such as Augsburg and Schongau. In the distance rises the impressive silhouette of the Bavarian Alps, which could be wrapped in a delicate veil of white clouds. 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 takes you through the picturesque Gurgltal (Gurgl Valley) and into the Upper Inn Valley. A sporty, serpentine ascent of approx. 700 meters awaits you between Pfunds and Nauders on the Reschenpass. From the Reschensee in South Tyrol, the Adige Cycle Path leads along the river through the sun-drenched Vinschgau to the spa town of Merano and on to the Castelfeder holiday region. The vineyards are already emitting a southern flair, blending into the landscape with their sweeping lines and allowing the South Tyrolean lowlands to merge seamlessly into Trentino and its glamorous capital Trento.

As a reward for the ascent to Alta Valsugana, a magnificent view opens up into the thermal region of the Suganer Valley, whose cycle path along the Brenta River accompanies you almost to Feltre.

Behind you, the graceful hills of the world-famous Prosecco growing area of Valdobbiadene, your way leads you through tranquil villages and historically significant cities like Treviso, before Quarto d’Altino is reached, the destination of your journey. By train you can reach the centre of Venice directly and nothing stands in the way of a long stroll in the Serenissima with its palazzi and art treasures.

* Road construction in which tree trunks were laid as planks floating in the peatland

Highlights

- Roman museum in the Augsburg armoury
- Historic Augsburg water management (UNESCO world heritage site)
- King Ludwig’s fairy-tale castles of Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, Füssen/Schwangau
- Sunken church tower of Altgraun (14th century), Reschenstausee water reservoir
- Original milestone of Rabland, city museum of Bolzano
- Borgo Valsugana, Suganer Valley
- Forte Leone, Primolano
- The original milestone of Cesiomaggiore, optional visitation when riding via Praderadego pass between Feltre and Pieve di Soligo
- Lagoon city of Venice with historical treasures and sights

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
- Very sporty option between Feltre and Pieve di Soligo via Praderadego pass
- 2 parts of approx. 5 km with more frequented roads between Feltre and Quarto d’Altino
- Train ride from Quarto d’Altino to Venice and back

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

- 📅 May 3rd 2025, May 31st 2025, June 28th 2025, July 19th 2025, August 30th 2025 (Saturdays)
- 📅 14 days | 13 nights (incl. days of arrival and departure)
- 📅 Stretch trip - approx. 705 resp. 715 cycling kilometres
- 📅 Individual cycling trip
- 📅 From 2 persons (single travellers on application)

Itinerary

Day 1: Individual journey to Donauwörth

Welcome to the former end of the Roman Via Claudia Augusta, welcome to the start of a long, diversified and historical tour in southward direction.

Day 2: Donauwörth – Augsburg (approx. 50 km)

Your first cycling day is characterized by the Danube-Lech floodplain with its wide-ranging river arms, glacial valleys and biotic wetlands. The cycle path meanders sometimes along the mighty Lech River sometimes through eagerly cultivated pastureland where the young seedlings of the gugguruz indulge in the rising sun. Soon you reach the former Roman provincial city of Augusta Vindelicorum - Augsburg, whose economic importance sprouted in antiquity and gained influence with the lucrative relations of the rich Fugger trading family.

Day 3: 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 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 9: Castelfeder Holiday Region – Levico Terme (approx. 60 - 70 km)

You should have managed to pick up a couple of Italian words before you continue to pedal on along River Adige to Trento where you see the old town with its Dome and Castle of Buonconsiglio. The sporty highlight today are about 600 metres of altitude difference up to Civezzano and Pergine Valsugana. Just a couple of kilometres more and you reach Lake Levico which will make you forget the struggle ;-)

Day 10: Levico Terme – Feltre (approx. 65 km)

A beautiful tour on a new cycle path from Levico Terme along River Brenta to Borgo Valsugana and Primolano awaits you. From here you have to take a regular road up to Arsie and Fonzaso in order to finish in Feltre, one of the most important historical cities.

Day 11: Feltre – Pieve di Soligo (approx. 50 km or 60 km via Praderadego-Pass)

Today you've got two options. Either you take the hilly but not too exhausting road through the Prosecco-vineyards or you take the sporty road and pass by Lentiai and the impressive Praderadego-Pass (approx. 900 Altitude difference). Pieve di Soligo is definitely perfect to relax after a "harder" day.

Day 12: Pieve di Soligo – Quarto d’Altino/Venice (approx. 65 km)

You have to hit the pedals just one more time in order to get to Venice. On the way you find some real highlights too. Right past Pieve di Soligo, still in the middle of the prosecco hills you see Castello San Salvatore throning. Soon after Ponte Priula you arrive at the art and radicchio-town of Treviso which is finally followed by Quarto d’Altino, a small town very close to the original start of Via Claudia Augusta.

Day 13: Excursion to Venice – Overnight stay again in Quarto d’Altino

Set aside your bike and relax while you take the train in approx. 20 minutes to the train station Santa Lucia of Venice. This is the perfect initial point to explore the uncountable alleys and channels of Venice. Have a look at Piazza San Marco and maybe even treat yourself with a gondola ride...

Day 14: Individual Return Journey or Extension

Included Services | Price per Person | Extras

Included services

- ✓ 13 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
- ✓ Train ticket from Quarto d’Altino to Venice and back
- ✓ Extensive travel papers | Navigation app | GPS-data 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 st)	Euro 2.099,00
- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from May 15 th)	Euro 2.199,00
- Accommodation in a double room (arrival from July 15 th)	Euro 2.265,00
- Single room surcharge	Euro 525,00

Extras

	per person
- Rental of 21-gear touring bicycle	Euro 170,00
- Rental of Pedelec/E-Bike	Euro 370,00
- Extra night in Donauwörth in DR/B&B	Euro 95,00
- Extra night in Donauwörth in SR/B&B	Euro 129,00
- Extra night in Quarto d’Altino in DR/B&B	Euro 82,00
- Extra night in Quarto d’Altino in SR/B&B	Euro 112,00
- Return transfer Quarto d’Altino-Donauwörth	on request

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