

ITALY – SOUTH TYROL, BRENTA DOLOMITES & LAKE GARDA

8-days / 7-nights – inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** walking from Merano via alpine peaks to the Italian lakes



A scenic self-guided walking holiday that takes you through the best of South Tyrol and the Trentino, with picture-perfect alpine landscapes, pretty river valleys, with mountain views and traditional alpine villages. The route avoids the high slopes and steeper hill climbs by following *Waal* paths along old water races and traversing valleys, then taking cable cars and public transport to gain access to spectacular walks on mountain plateaus, between *Rifugio* (mountain huts) and through alpine meadows.

Starting in the famous spa town of Merano, well known for its Art Nouveau architecture, walk through vineyards and orchards, past historic castles and sparkling tarns and visit idyllic places with wonderful views. The mountains of South Tyrol and Trentino are spectacular, offering far reaching views of turquoise lakes, plateaus, deep river valleys and canyons. The rugged peaks of the Dolomites give a feel for the fascinating alpine world of those stark, jagged giants. In Trentino discover mountain villages with winding narrow streets and stone houses before the holiday ends at the lakeside resort town of Riva del Garda. Set in the middle of high cliffs, enclosed by olive orchards, cypresses and fig trees, Lake Garda has a Mediterranean resort flair with lakeside cafés where a cappuccino, gelato or maybe a glass of prosecco offers a just reward for a great week of mountain walking.

Departs: Daily from 1 May to 3 October 2027

STANDARD tour with accommodation in 3-star, 4-star and country hotels:

Cost from: **\$2205** per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$660 per person
Mid / high season supplement **\$215 - \$425** per person applies from mid-May to mid-September
Optional half board supplement (6 dinners) \$495 per person

PREMIUM tour with upgraded accommodation – carefully selected characterful & charming 4-star hotels:

Cost from: **\$2845** per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$1065 per person
Mid / high season supplement **\$385 - \$620** per person applies from mid-May to mid-September

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation with ensuite bathrooms in standard or premium hotels; 7 breakfasts; luggage transfers; welcome briefing; digital travel documents including navigation app & GPS data; transfers as per the itinerary; 1 x Pradel-Molveno cable car ascent fare (only during summer season, otherwise short walk); emergency telephone hotline.

Not Included: Other meals, drinks, sightseeing, Lago Nembia-Molveno bus fare (approximately €3 per person), local city taxes (paid locally), personal expenses. Printed route book & maps (1 set per room) available for a supplement, ask for details.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 03 5750 1441 for details or reservations

Grading: Moderate – undulating with some steep ascents and descents. Mainly on well-maintained walking paths and forest trails. Average daily walk 18km, up to 7 hours per day and daily elevation gain of 200-900 metres. A good level of fitness and hill walking experience is recommended. On some days easier routes are possible by utilising local buses (at own arrangement and cost).

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Merano

Arrive in Merano, an Art Nouveau spa town in the heart of South Tyrol, this afternoon. Wander its arcades or follow in the footsteps of Empress Sissi along the 'Passer' esplanade to Trauttmansdorff Castle, with its terraced gardens.

Day 2: Merano – Nalles / Nals

walking @ 21km

Start the day on *Waal* paths through apple orchards to an impressive waterfall, then walk up to the sunny plateau of Tesimo / Tisens, with its vineyards, fruit trees and chestnut groves, and up to the historic little church of St. Christoph. After walking through a beautiful woodland with views deep into the Etsch valley, reach Nals / Nalles, an idyllic little village amidst apple orchards and vineyards, where you stay the night.

Day 3: Nalles / Nals – Lake Caldaro

walking @ 18km

An undulating walk today, following a trail of castles; some steep roads take you from fortress to fortress with diverse historic architecture. After lunch wander through the region of 'holes in the ice', a natural phenomenon which gives you the chance to discover icicles in midsummer. Passing the tower of St. George and many more vineyards, reach Lake Caldaro (Lago di Caldaro in Italian, Kalterersee in German) and your overnight stay.

Day 4: Lake Caldaro – Coredò

walking @ 17km

This morning travel by train to the Mendelpass. Enjoy the view before walking over the plateau towards the Non Valley, known in German as Nonstal, the border of South Tyrol and Trentino provinces as well as the German and Italian languages. Continue through impressive canyons and idyllic villages and past two small lakes to Coredò.

Day 5: Coredò – Molveno

walking @ 15km

Start the day with a short transfer through the impressive landscape of the Val di Non. Afterwards, walk through quiet forests up to the panoramic square of the little San Tommaso church. Continue into the Priori nature park area and across karst lake wetlands to Andalo and on to Molveno, at the foot of the Brenta Dolomites.

Day 6: Brenta Dolomites Circular Route

walking @ 15km

Explore the alpine world of the tall limestone peaks of the Brenta range. You ascend to the Altopiano di Pradel (high plateau) by cable car and walk one of its most beautiful routes. Stop at a Rifugio (mountain hut) and enjoy a typical Italian snack as well as the impressive view of the surrounding mountains, before a leisurely descent to the crystal clear, green tarn of Lago Nembia and a short walk back to Molveno.

Day 7: Molveno – Riva del Garda

walking @ 11km

Walk through the meadows of the valley of Lomason. Then climb up to Rifugio Monte San Pietro, for a great view of Lake Garda. Walk down through winding streets and archways, past stone walls to the castle of Tenno. Your last few kilometres take you through olive groves and Mediterranean cypress to Riva del Garda, on the northern tip of Lake Garda. There is time this afternoon to explore the historic city centre, with its medieval city gates and piazzas dotted among its narrow, colourful streets.

Day 8: Tour ends in Riva del Garda

Tour ends after breakfast. Ask about adding extra nights of accommodation to explore more of Lake Garda.



Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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