

BOLZANO-VERONA-VENICE - GUIDED INN-TO-INN VENETO TOUR

8-day / 7-night guided inn-to-inn cycling holidays



This guided tour winds its way through typical rural Italian countryside from the mountains around Bolzano, past the beauty of Lake Garda, to cities full of culture and history like Verona, Vicenza and Padova and to the fabulous city of Venice. Venice has been a great attraction for tourist for centuries and still today is a 'must see' inclusion on any itinerary for Italy.

Few get the opportunity to explore the region surrounding Venice or the Brenta Canal by bicycle with the many splendid villas, market towns & colourful villages. Part of the Po delta irrigation system the area is famous for its wetlands and fish farms and is a haven for numerous birds including flamingoes and wild animals such as coypu and deer. We will see many fishermen's huts & hides camouflaged in the reeds especially away from the coast.

There are undulating sections along the route with short uphill stretches. Overall this is an easy to manage itinerary, riding on secondary roads or on sealed bike paths. Trains (on which you can take your bike) connect the main cities of the tour, so in case of bad weather or if you need a rest day you can take the train.

Highlights:

- * Ferry cruise on Garda Lake
- * Wine tasting in Gambellara
- * Entrance into Villa Valmarana ai Nani
- * An ice-cream in arguably the best ice-creamery in Vicenza
- * Guided tours of Verona and Padova

Departs: Saturday April 28th, May 20th, June 16th & 23rd, September 15th & 22nd, 2012 from Bolzano

Grade: Easy to moderate cycling, mostly flat or on gentle rolling hills with 2 longer days.

Cost: From AU\$1495 per person in a twin/double room From AU\$1780 for a single room

includes: 7-nights accommodation with private bathrooms, breakfast & dinners (3 course-meals, with 1 dinner in Venice, beverages are not included), bicycle tour leader, luggage transportation for 6 stages & support van in the area, route descriptions & maps, Lake Garda ferry, wine tasting. Guided sightseeing tours in Verona & Venice, bike hire with panniers & a lock/repair kit (helmets extra if required).

Not included: Meals other than those shown or drinks with dinners & personal expenses, optional train from Verona to Vicenza, transport to the start or from the end of the tour, local taxes.

Accommodation: 3 or 4-star carefully selected hotels or B & B accommodation. Special importance is given to the proximity of the historic centre of the towns chosen (the hotels can usually be easily reached by bike from the main square of the city) and to the breakfast. The breakfast buffet is always very good and ideally suited for cyclists. The rooms are always equipped with ensuite facilities and air-conditioning.

CONTACT OUTDOOR TRAVEL FOR MORE DETAILS & RESERVATIONS



Suggested itinerary:

DAY 1 Bolzano

Meet at 6.00pm at the reception of the hotel for the first introduction to the tour. Bolzano is a famous commercial and tourist centre with historical and cultural links to both the Italian and the German world.

DAY 2 Bolzano – Trento (cycling distance @ 70km)

Today you will ride mostly along the Adige River, through orchards, vineyards passing the villages of Ora, Egna and Salorno. The dam pathways lead then to Trento.

DAY 3 Trento – Peschiera / Desenzano (50km)

Following the Adige we reach Rovereto and Mori. From here we cycle west towards Lake Garda. After a short ascent/descent we reach Torbole and Riva where a ferry takes us to the southern part of the lake.

DAY 4 Peschiera / Desenzano – Verona (35km or 60km)

Today we head to Verona; one of the most important and beautiful cities of the Veneto region. Worth visiting are: the Roman Arena, the Church of San Zeno, Julia's House and in the afternoon a city tour of the historical centre.

DAY 5 Verona – Vicenza (75km or 40km)

The route starts out flat and then heads through the Monti Berici, a hilly region just south of Vicenza, with a wonderful view of the city. We can taste the local wine in Gambellara and see the beautiful private palaces and public buildings designed by Andrea Palladio, the famous 16th Century architect in the old city centre of Vicenza. For those who prefer to shorten the day's ride you can take a train from several railway stations (at extra cost).

DAY 6 Vicenza – Padova (50km)

Today we cycle from Vicenza to beautiful Palladian Villa Rotonda. Then, following the Bacchiglione River, to Padova with its famous Giotto's Chapel and one of the biggest squares in Europe "Prato della Valle".

DAY 7 Padova – Mestre / Venice (40km)

Cycling across the Veneto plains following the Brenta Canal with grand villas; Villa Pisani, Malcontenta, Villa Widmann until we reach Mestre (on Venice's mainland) and Venice, which you will have time to explore.

DAY 8 Mestre / Venice

Tour ends after breakfast. Extra night can be booked for Venice at extra cost – ask for details.

Other cycling holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided - are available in most parts of Italy and across Europe through **Outdoor Travel** including Tuscany, Umbria, Amalfi or Sicily or Provence, Burgundy, Loire Valley, Brittany, Switzerland & Austria, Ireland, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary, Holland & Belgium.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

- Call toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102