

AUSTRIA – MOZART CYCLE PATH & THE AUSTRIAN LAKE DISTRICT

8-days / 7-nights inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** cycling circuit from and back to Salzburg



This great value cycling tour of Upper Austria starts and ends in enchanting Salzburg, birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, perhaps the most famous musician of all time. Learn more about Mozart by tracing aspects of his life in Salzburg and the region of Salzkammergut, the Lake District of Austria. Further musical connections are provided by film locations of *The Sound of Music* and a visit to the town where *Silent Night* was composed. You spend two nights in Salzburg, with its many fascinating sights: the UNESCO World Heritage listed *Altstadt* (old town) on the Salzach River, the 11th Century Hohensalzburg fortress, the salt caves (Salzburg translates as 'salt town') and the beautiful Hellbrunn and Mirabell palaces. This tour offers easy to moderate cycling, mostly along dedicated cycle paths and through remarkable lake and mountain scenery. The interesting cycling, combined with history and culture, make this an unforgettable holiday.

Multi-gear hybrid trekking bikes are provided; however this region is also ideally suited to **E-Bikes** and offers charging and swap stations along the way. E-Bikes are hugely popular in Europe; they help to 'iron out' the hills along the way, make the distances feel shorter, and allow cyclists of different abilities to tour together. E-Bikes are available at extra cost – please request when booking.

Your holiday includes breakfast daily, most often a continental buffet. You can also choose Half Board, at extra cost. This adds seven dinners, usually based on traditional local cuisine. Please request when booking.

Departs: Daily on demand from Salzburg from 29th April to 9th October, 2019

Cost from: **\$1295** per person twin share Single room supplement from \$360
Half Board Option (Breakfast & Dinner): \$335 per person E-Bike Hire: \$135

Includes: 7 nights' twin-share accommodation in 3-star hotels or inns, 7 breakfasts, route map and information (1 set per room), luggage transfers (2 pieces per person), multi-gear hybrid bike hire, service hotline and cycle repair service for hired bicycles (operates daily from 9am to 7pm), transport on Lake Wolfgangsee ferry.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Salzburg

Arrive in Salzburg around mid-afternoon to collect your bicycles and your package of route notes and maps. Perhaps explore Salzburg's picturesque old town and pay a visit to the house where Mozart was born, now a museum with an extensive collection of memorabilia, letters and musical instruments.

Day 2: Salzburg – Thalgau

Cycling @ 23km, ascent 275m, descent 145m

Your first ride takes you along the Mozart Cycle Path. On this first stage much of the cycle path follows the old Ischlerbahn railway line. You may like to detour to the basilica of Maria Plain, a pilgrimage church on the outskirts of Salzburg, where Mozart's *Krönungsmesse* (Coronation Mass) was first performed. The basilica is perched on a hill and the climb is rewarded with wonderful views of Salzburg and the surrounding mountains. The detour adds about 5 kilometres to your route. Continue along the rail trail towards Eugendorf and onwards to Thalgau, in the beautiful Salzkammergut Lake District, where you stay tonight.

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Day 3: Thalgau – Bad Ischl

cycling @ 43km, ascent 315m, descent 390m

From Thalgau, ride the Mozart and Salzkammergut cycle paths to Bad Ischl, the summer home of Emperor Franz Josef I. Cycle through a forest to St Lorenz then along the shores of Lake Mondsee, below the limestone cliffs of the *Drachenwand* (Dragonwall). There is one short challenging climb over a pass to St Gilgen, a picturesque village on Lake Wolfgangsee. St Gilgen has connections to Mozart – it was the birthplace of his mother Anna Maria, and his sister Nannerl lived here.

Continue on a lakeside cycle path to Strobl where you may have time for a swim. After Strobl follow the the Ischl River valley to Bad Ischl, once a fashionable spa town. The Kaiservilla, Franz Josef's residence in Bad Ischl, is worth a visit if time permits.



Day 4: Bad Ischl – Mondsee

Cycling @ 29km, ascent 290m, descent 270m

Leave Bad Ischl and cycle through small villages at the foot of mountains to St Wolfgang then take the ferry across Lake Wolfgangsee to St Gilgen. There is one short challenging climb en route to Mondsee, which sits at the northern end of the lake. Perhaps visit the Basilica St Michael, with its carved Baroque altars and Gothic-style vaulted ceiling, where the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music* was filmed.

Day 5: Mondsee – Seekirchen

Cycling @ 37km, ascent 355m, descent 340m

Leaving Mondsee perhaps visit the Bauernmuseum open-air museum of unique old timber farmhouses, the *Rauchhaus* (smoke house) where meat or grain is stored in the loft. From Mondsee ride the Salzkammergut cycle path along Lake Irrsee and Lake Wallersee's protected wetlands and reed beds to Seekirchen am Wallersee, where you should have time for an afternoon swim at one of the town's lakeside beaches.

Day 6: Seekirchen – Seeham

Cycling @ 34km, ascent 315m, descent 315m

Another day of cycling through spectacular lake and mountain scenery as we re-join the Mozart cycle path at Köstendorf, then ride onwards with one notable ascent to Mattsee. Here the open air museum offers a replica of a 7th Century village of the Bavarii people. Continue around Lake Obertrumer to Seeham, which was a fashionable summer resort in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

Day 7: Seeham – Salzburg*

Cycling @ 34km, ascent 290m, descent 390m

Cycle the floodplains of the Salzach River to Oberndorf. The Christmas carol *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night) was written and first performed in a tiny chapel here. The route joins the Salzach River back to Salzburg. For some 70km the Salzach River forms the border between Germany and Austria before joining the Inn River. There is time this afternoon to explore Salzburg.*

* During the busy Salzburg Festival in July and August your hotel may be up to 12km outside the city centre.

Day 8: Departure day.

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. Ask us about extra nights in Salzburg.

Outdoor Travel offers guided or self-guided European cycling holidays to suit your interests and abilities. We also offer Bike & Barge cycling tours or small group or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling holidays in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Romania, Vietnam, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and to make a reservation:

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