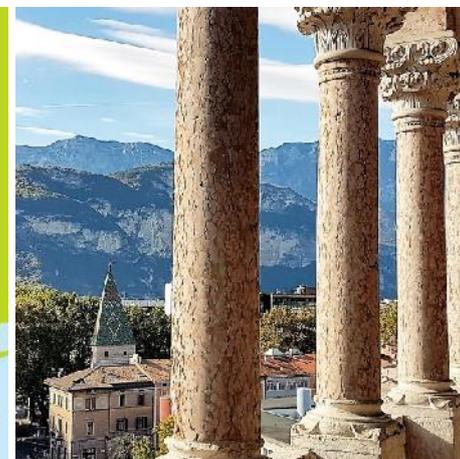


BOLZANO-VERONA-VENICE - TOUR OF THE VENETO

8-day / 7-night guided or **self-guided** inn-to-inn cycling holiday



This tour winds its way through typical rural Italian countryside from the mountains around Bolzano, alongside the Adige River, past the beauty of Lake Garda, to cities full of culture and history like Verona, Vicenza and Padova, ending in enchanting Venice. Verona is home to Juliet's House and one of Italy's premier opera houses; Vicenza is dotted with buildings designed by influential 16th Century architect Andrea Palladio, and Padova's university is one of the oldest in Europe. Venice, *La Serenissima*, has been a great attraction for tourists for centuries and still today is a 'must see' inclusion on any holiday in Italy. This is a unique opportunity to explore Trentino-Alto Adige and the Veneto by bicycle, seeing splendid villas, market towns and colourful villages.

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.

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

SELF-GUIDED: Departs Saturdays and Sundays from 23rd March to 19th October 2019
Departs Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 30th April to 18th September 2019

Tour cost from: **\$1635** per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$395

GUIDED: Departs 15th June, 6th July, 31st August, 28th September 2019

Tour cost from: **\$2055** per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$395
Optional bike upgrade to e-bike \$240 per person (limited – please book early)

All tours include: 7 nights' hotel accommodation, breakfast buffet, welcome briefing in English, bike hire, luggage transportation, Cycling Guide Book, route descriptions and maps, 4-hour ferry cruise on Lake Garda, hotline service, entrance into Villa Valmarana ai Nani, ice-cream in the best ice cream parlour in Vicenza.

Guided tours also include: 7 dinners (1 dinner in Venice), bicycle tour leader, support van in the area, wine tasting, guided sightseeing tours in Verona and Venice. Guided tours subject to minimum numbers.

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. (Bike helmets can be hired at extra cost if required – please ask when booking).

Accommodation: selected 3 or 4-star hotels, located whenever possible close to historic centres or main squares in the towns along the route. Rooms have an ensuite bathroom and air-conditioning. Breakfast buffet is ideally suited for cyclists. The hotel on the last night is in Mestre. On the self-guided tour you may choose to upgrade to stay in Venice (at extra cost).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331582 for details & reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Bolzano

Aim to arrive mid-afternoon at your Bolzano hotel. Bolzano is a famous commercial and tourist centre with historical and cultural links to both the Italian and the German world. Bolzano has an airport and can be reached by train from Rome, Venice via Verona or Munich via Innsbruck.

Day 2 Bolzano – Trento

cycling distance @ 70km

We ride mostly along the Adige River, through orchards and vineyards, passing the villages of Ora, Egna and Salorno. Salorno, which is nearly the halfway point, marks the linguistic border between German and Italian. Continue on the cycle path to Trento, where the Castello del Buonconsiglio and the Duomo are worth a visit.

Day 3 Trento – Peschiera / Desenzano

cycling distance @ 50km

Following the Adige you reach Rovereto and Mori, where we ride westward towards Lake Garda. After a short ascent/descent you come to Torbole and Riva where a ferry takes you to the southern part of the lake.

Day 4 Peschiera / Desenzano – Verona

cycling distance @ 35km or 60km

Our destination is Verona, one of the most important and beautiful cities of the Veneto region. Worth visiting are: the Roman Arena, the Church of San Zeno, Juliet's House and in the afternoon a city tour of the historical centre.

Day 5 Verona – Vicenza

cycling distance @ 75km or 40km

The route starts out flat and then heads through the hilly Monti Berici region just south of Vicenza, with a wonderful view of the city. In Gambellara those on the guided tour can sample local wine. The old city centre of Vicenza is home to several beautiful private palaces and public buildings designed by Andrea Palladio, the famous 16th Century architect. The day's ride can be shortened by taking the train (at extra cost).

Day 6 Vicenza – Padova spa region or Padova city

cycling distance @ 45km or 50km

Cycling out of Vicenza on the Bacchiglione River cycle path, admire the Palladian masterpiece the *Villa La Rotonda* and Tiepolo's frescos at Villa Valmarana. Pass the hamlet of Montegalda and cycle into the Euganean Hills, the thermal spa region in the province of Padova, where you stay at a 4-star spa resort.

Note: those on the guided cycle tour also ride from Vicenza to Villa La Rotonda, then follow the Bacchiglione River to Padova and overnight in a city hotel with time to explore Padova's Giotto's Chapel and Prato della Valle.

Day 7 Padova spa region or Padova city – Mestre / Venice

cycling distance @ 40km or 55km

On the self-guided tour, cycle alongside the Battaglia Canal to Padova, rich in art and history and home to one of the oldest universities in Europe. From Padova, the route of both tours follows the Piovego Canal to Stra where you join the Brenta Canal. We then ride across the Veneto Plains with the many grand villas including; Villa Pisani, Malcontenta and Villa Widmann. Reach Mestre (on Venice's mainland) and to the city of Venice itself, where you will have time to explore.

Day 8 Mestre / Venice

Tour ends after breakfast. Extend your stay in Venice at extra cost – ask for details.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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