

The Drau (Drava) Cycle Path: from the Dolomites to the Corinthian lakes, a cycle tour for families

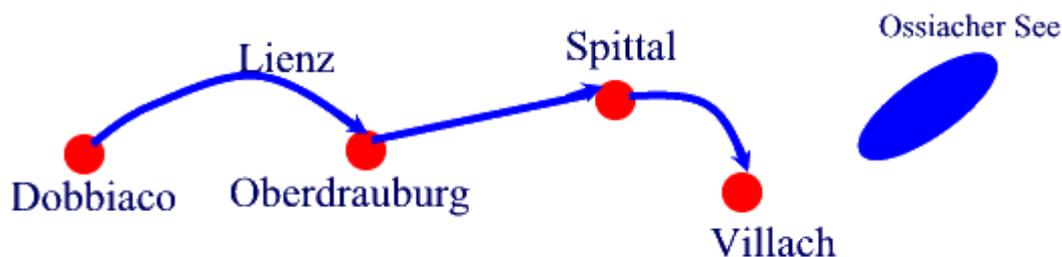
The Drau Cycle Path is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular routes in Europe and this segment of the tour is suitable for families and novice cyclists. The cycle path starts at the source of the River Drava (Drau), in the vicinity of Toblach / Dobbiaco where the tour begins. This is where the composer Mahler found most of his inspiration. The River Drava accompanies you on the way to the East Austrian capital of Lienz (673 a.s.l.). From here the tour takes you through Spittal and continue till Villach. On the way you will encounter several lakes where you can have a refreshing swim or just relax on the banks of the lakes and enjoy the sun.



Highlights of this Tour:

- The „Drava/Drau bicycle path“ from the Alto Adige to Carinthia
- Dobbiaco and Gustav Mahler's house Lake Wörther (Wörthersee)
- Roman church in Innichen
- The radiant town of Lienz (Castle Bruck – Roman excavations “Aguntum”)
- Castle Porcia at Spittal/ Drau
- Wonderful landscapes and lakes; Millstätter, Ossiacher, Faaker and Wörther
- Tranquillity and relaxation
- Villach, well known for its carnivals

Programma



Day 1 Arrival in the Alta-Pusteria-Valley: Dobbiaco (Toblach) or Villabassa (Niederdorf)

Your first hotel is in the Alta Pusteria Valley. The use of a public not guarded car park near the hotel. For those arriving earlier, it is well worth cycling into the Höhlenstein Valley to visit Lake Toblach. In the evening route briefing and handing over travel documents.

Day 2 From the Alta Pusteria (Hochpustertal) to Oberdrauburg (ca 65 km / 40 miles- 600m slowly descent) Starting in Niederdorf or Dobbiaco, you cycle along the bike path to Innichen and then on to Sillian, a paradise for who loves active and nature holidays. After this it is downhill all the way to the Austrian town of Lienz, situated on the sunny side of the Alps. The Romans already built their town Aguntum, whose ruins can still be seen near the present-day Dölsach. You leave from where the Isel flows into the Drau and continue along the bike path to Oberdrauburg (Perchten and Alm museums and old mill).

Day 3 From Oberdrauburg to Spittal (ca 55 km /34 miles)

You leave Oberdrauburg and cycle through a splendid scenery along an important Roman trade route till Berg im Tal. From Berg you pass through idyllic scenery and dreamy villages en route to Spittal/Drau. There is the possibility of taking a detour to Lake Millstätter for a quick swim or a short rest. Spittal is famous for the concerts and comedy shows held at Porcia Castle, one of the most beautiful Renaissance castles in Austria and well worth a visit.

Day 4 From Spittal to Villach (ca 40 km / 25 miles)

This day's cycling takes you to Villach, the largest town in Carinthia. There are many opportunities for a stop, such as the mycological museum, the world of the marionettes of Elli Riehls and the archeological site. Villach, a quite small town, so it is easy to get around on foot, is well known not only for its carnival events but also for its arts and crafts festival. There are many places of interest to visit like the Landskron Castle with its falconry, the bell-tower of St. Jakob and the museum of Doll-Art... and of course there are many boutiques, pubs and restaurants. A trip to the local lakes of Ossiacher and Faaker is also worthwhile.

Day 5 Departure after breakfast

If you have parked your car at the starting hotel and you didn't book for a transfer, it is possible to return by train to the Alta Pusteria.



The tour includes:

- 4 overnight stays in *** star hotels with breakfast.
- If booked for Half Board: 4 diners
- Tour information
- Local Assistance (German, Italian and English)
- luggage transportation
- route instructions (in English, Italian or German) and maps.
- route briefing on arrival day

Transfer:

You can return by train to the starting hotel in Dobbiaco or Villabassa, if you have parked your car near the first hotel. There are good train connections from Villach passing Lienz to Toblach /Dobbiaco or Niederdorf/Villabassa. Price is about € 37,00 p.p.. You can also bring your own bike on the train, but there is limited availability. Good to book in advance at www.oebb.at

By car:

By car you follow the Brenner motorway (A22) to Brixen/Bressanone – take the exit Franzensfeste/Pustertal (Pusteria), then continue through the Pusteria Valley (SS49) to Niederdorf or Toblach, depending on the location of your hotel

Or

Drive along the Felbertauernstraße to Lienz in Eastern Tyrol (Austria) and then continue in Italy passing through the Alta Pusteria (Pusteria Valley) to Toblach or Niederdorf, depending on the location of your hotel.

Parking facilities: free unattended parking for the duration of the walking tour at a nearby public parking area.

By train:

Verona-Bolzano-Fortezza. At Fortezza you take the train to Val Pusteria to Dobbiaco.

Or

Take the train from Innsbruck over the Brennero till Franzensfeste (Fortezza). Here change train to the Pusteria valley (Pustertal)- Lienz and get off the train in Dobbiaco or Villabassa

Time tables available on:

www.deutschebahn.de

www.oebb.at

www.trenitalia.com

By plane:

Low cost flight are going to Innsbruck airport, Sant Angelo – Antonio Canova, the airport of Treviso and Marco Polo airport of Mestre/Venice (Venezia). Upon request we can organize a transfer from the airport till the starting hotel (price on request)..

Transfer every Saturday (in June, July and August also on Wednesday) by shuttle bus from **Venice** / mainland Mestre to Toblach (Dobbiaco) or Villabassa (Niederdorf) for € 65,00 p.p. (reservation and payments upon booking)

Period

Arrival every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 28/04/2018 till 29/09/2018 (last arrival day). Except the dates 06/07-08/07 With a booking of min. 5 persons also other arrival days are possible. High Season 23/06 to

08/09/2017 (incl.)

Level 1/2

Easy Touring This tour is ideal for beginners and families. The route mainly you alongside the River Drau and there are no steep inclines. The bicycle paths are well marked, mostly asphalted and without traffic. Daily distances between 24 and 35 miles; total about 160 km. Suitable for children from 14 yrs and on.

Participants

minimum 2 persons (travelling alone on request)

Prices p.p. 2018

In a double/twin room € 379,00

Single supplement € 79,00

Hight season supplement p.p. from 24/06 till 09/09 (included) € 35,00

Supplement for half board € 79,00

Bike rental (wissel 3 x 7) € 65,00

Electric bike € 120,00

Discount Children in room with 2 adults: 1-5 yrs 100% / 6-11 yrs 50% / 12-14 25% / >15 yrs 10%

Usuful Information:

Italy

<http://www.enit.it/en.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107658.html>

Austria

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria>

<http://www.austria.info/uk>

<http://www.aboutaustria.org/>

Dolomites

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolomites>

<http://www.dolomiti.org/dengl/welcome.html>

www.dolomitiwebcam.com

Lienz

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lienz>

Villach

<http://www.villach.at/inhalt/englisch/7682.htm>

Weather report

www.meteo.it

www.ilmeteo.it

Highway Italy

www.autostrade.it

Lowcost flights

<http://www.volagratis.com/vg1/voli.do>

Castle of Landskron [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landskron_Castle_\(Carinthia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landskron_Castle_(Carinthia))

Airport Venice

<http://www.veniceairport.it>

Airport Innsbruck

<https://www.innsbruck-airport.com/en>

Airport Treviso

<http://www.trevisoairport.it/en/>

Trains in Italy

http://www.ferroviedellostato.it/homepage_en.html