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Bolzano–Ferrara The Waterways of Northern Italy



DAY BY DAY

- 1. Bolzano.** Arrival. Bolzano is a famous commercial and tourist centre and also a historical and cultural connection between the Italian and the German world.
- 2. Bolzano–Trento** (65/70 km, elevation up 370 m). 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. Possibility to shorten the stage by taking the train in several train stations along the way.
- 3. Trento–Peschiera/Desenzano** (50 km + ferry, elevation up 200 m). Always pedalling along the Adige you reach Rovereto and Mori. From here westwards towards Lake Garda. After a short ascent, a refreshing descent will follow and lead you to Torbole and to Riva. The ferry cruise takes you to the southern part of the lake.
- 4. Peschiera/Desenzano–Mantova** (45/70 km, elevation up 20/200 m). Today you will follow one of the most famous Italian cycle paths, passing through the villages of Borghetto and Valeggio sul Mincio. The stage ends in Mantova, wonderful art city.
- 5. Mantova–Ostiglia/Sermide** (45/65 km, elevation up 0 m). Leaving Mantova along its lakes and the Mincio, you arrive at the historic lock of Governolo and join Italy's largest waterway: the majestic River Po. A detour leads to Polirone

Abbey at San Benedetto: designed by Giulio Romano for the Benedictine Order, it remains one of the most magnificent in northern Italy. Carrying on along the Po cycleway, you arrive at our night stop at Ostiglia or Sermide, a crossing which witnessed some of the fiercest fighting at the end of the Second World War.

6. Ostiglia/Sermide–Ferrara (65/45 km, elevation up 0 m). You resume along the Po and arrive at Stellata, a settlement where the star-shaped Rocca Possente, an 11th century fortress, once controlled the river's shipping from the floodplain. At Bondeno you veer off to



catch the scenic cycling path of the Burana Canal, tree-lined all the way to Ferrara. Once ruled by the Este dynasty and a key city state of the Italian Renaissance, Ferrara is now a thriving university town and Italy's "Cycling Capital".

7. Ferrara round tour (65/45 km, elevation up 0). Back to the Po river you reach the rural town of Ro where you can admire one of the last remaining floating mills on the Po. You can choose to go back from the same way or make a detour on the countryside.

8. Ferrara. After breakfast end of services. Possibility either to book extra

nights or to combine with the tour: Veneto (p. 38).

ROUTE PROFILE

- Total Length: 315/340 km
- Total vertical up: 570/770 km
- Terrain: 97% asphalt, 3% unpaved
- Train connection among the overnight stays: every day
- Possibility to shorten the itinerary by taking the train: day 2 and 6

Mainly along flat roads with only a few rolling parts. The region of South Tyrol is provided with an excellently-built cyclelanes system. You can ride almost exclusively on well-planned, traffic-free cycle lanes, part of which run along the Adige banks. The second part of the tour is largely along the flats of the Po plains, mostly on tarmac cycle paths along rivers and canals, or quiet country roads.

PARKING

In Bolzano: from 60 € per week (no reservation possible, to be paid on-site).

BY PLANE

Bolzano is well connected (90–120 min.) with the following airports: Verona (VRN), Innsbruck (INN).

PRICE PER PERSON

SEASONS

Standard season: from April 19th to June 27th 2014 and from September 6th to October 6th 2014.

High Season: from June 28th to September 5th 2014.



SELF GUIDED TOUR

3/4* Hotels
682 € DBL
+ 198 € SGL
+ 30 € High season



BICYCLE RENT

65 € Girolibero bike
145 € Electro-bike
15 € Helmet

EXTRA NIGHTS

In Bolzano
65/85 € DBL/SGL
In Ferrara
65/85 € DBL/SGL

REDUCTIONS

3rd person in room:
100 €

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

7 nights hotel accommodation, buffet breakfast, welcome briefing in English, luggage transportation,

4-hour ferry cruise through Lake Garda, route descriptions & maps, 7-days Hotline service.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Local taxes (approx 10–15 €)

DEPARTURES

Every Saturday from April 19th to October 6th 2014. Special departure dates for at least 6 persons!