

Program Bike & barge / Bike & Hotel trip may 12 – june 2 2018

May 12th. Bolzano

Individual arrival. Bolzano is a famous commercial and tourist centre and also a historical and cultural connection between the Italian and the German world.

May 13th. Resiapass – Silandro (50 km)

We will drive you to Resia up to 1500 metres of height, where your cycling tour starts. The majestic cycle lane will take you past the lake Resia and the cloister of Montemaria near Silandro.

May 14th. Silandro – Merano (40 km)

The tour continues along the river Adige, passing through orchards and nice landmarks like the imposing Castle Dornsberg. You arrive in the beautiful city of Merano.

May 15th, Merano – Bolzano (35 km)

Still cycling along the cycle lane you reach little towns like Nalles and Andriano and your destination, Bolzano. Take your time for a walk around the capital of the South Tyrol.

May 16th. Bolzano – Trento (65/70 km)

Cycling along the lane you follow the river Adige beside apple orchards, vineyards and through the villages of Ora, Egna and Salorno. Along the river banks you ride towards Trento. Possibility to shorten the stage by taking the train in several train stations along the way.

May 17th. Trento – Desenzano/Peschiera (50 km by bike + ferry)

You'll reach the Lake Garda. Before leaving for Riva, don't miss the sight of the lake from above! The ferry cruise takes you to the southern part of the lake. The boat excursion alone makes the whole trip worthwhile.

May 18th. Desenzano/Peschiera – Mantua (70/45 km)

Today you will follow one of the most famous Italian cycle paths, passing through the villages of Borghetto and Valeggio sul Mincio. The trip ends in Mantua, wonderful art city. Overnight in a hotel

May 19th. Mantua and embarkation to Vita Pugna.

Free day in Mantua and embarkation on board Vita Pugna from 4.30 PM on. The meeting with the tour leader and the crew is scheduled at dinner-time, at 7 p.m.

May 20th. Mantua round tour (40 km)

A day dedicated to the discovery of this little visited cultural gem, its three picturesque "lakes" formed by the river Mincio, and its surrounding countryside – once a City State ruled by the Gonzaga family and now considered by many as Italy's "Sleeping Beauty". In the late afternoon a local guide will lead you through the most known highlights of the town.

May 21st. Mantua – Governolo – Zelo (50 km)

A short cruise along the lush banks of the Mincio takes us to Governolo, where it flows into the Po and forms the largest inland basin in Italy. At Governolo Lock, once a vital staging post for local navigation, we saddle our bikes and follow the Po through Ostiglia (famed for its medieval fortress and floating mill) and on to the village of Bergantino. Here we visit the charming Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum. Finally we reach Zelo, a sleepy village on the Canal Bianco, the waterway which runs parallel to the Po.

May 22nd. Zelo – Ferrara – Adria (50 km by bike + 60 km by bus)

After breakfast we continue our bike and boat adventure cycling towards Ferrara, another key City State of ancient Italy. You will visit this historic town and discover its little touched centre, still surrounded by the original city walls. From Ferrara a short transfer by private coach will take you to Adria. Once close to the shores of the sea which bears its name, Adria was an ancient Greek port, famous for trading Baltic amber.

Its remarkable museum also bears witness to its Etruscan, Roman and Venetian heritage.

May 23rd. Adria – Porto Viro – Chioggia (40 km)

An exhilarating day of discovery alternating sailing and cycling starts with a short cruise to our drop-off point at Porto Viro and the exploration of the Po's delta. This unique wetland park is the prime reserve in Europe for herons and home to several colonies of flamingos. At the mouth of the River Adige, which flows fast and cool from the Dolomites, we follow then the Po-Brondolo waterway and reach the Venetian lagoon. Our overnight stop is the bustling and colourful fishing port of Chioggia, known as "Little Venice".

May 24th. Chioggia – Venice (30 km)

A morning visit to the fish market is recommended and, time allowing, we also climb up Chioggia's millennial clock tower – the oldest in the world – for some breathtaking views. We then enjoy some island hopping in the lagoon itself by bike and boat, starting with our barge dropping us off on Pellestrina (home to the Ca' Roman nature reserve); and continuing by public ferry for the short crossing to the Lido island. Celebrated by Thomas Mann (Death in Venice) and particularly fashionable with the artists and aristocracy of the Belle Époque, the Lido di Venezia is now home to the International Venice Film Festival and its galaxy of stars. Finally, our floating hotel takes us to our marina in Venice, for the culmination of our bike and boat holiday.

May 25th. Venice, free day

In the morning a local guide will let you discover the capital of the ancient "Serenissima Republic of Venice", which held sway over much of the Mediterranean (and beyond) for centuries. After that you have a lot of time to soak up its timeless beauty or explore its islands.

May 26th check out and transfer to Croatia

After breakfast, a boat + bus transfer will bring you to Omišalj, with a scheduled arrival before 3 PM (250 km distance) At approx. 3 pm the ship takes you to the island of Cres in about four hours. On Cres you take a walk through the Venetian old town in the evening.

May 27th. Islands of Cres and Lošinj (23 km)

In the morning the ship takes you to Martinšćica. From there you cycle on the east side of the island among pine, fig and laurel trees to Osor, an artist town, where you have lunch on the ship. Afterwards there is time for a swim in the bay with its crystal clear water. In the afternoon you leave Osor on board the boat and navigate to the island of Lošinj. After a comfortable cruise and a refreshing swim stop the ship brings you safely into the large harbor of Mali Lošinj. The clear climate of this wellness retreat with its colorful captain's houses and an abundance of cafes welcomes you for a relaxing evening, enabling you to unwind and recuperate.

May 28th. Islands of Lošinj and Molat (20 + 10 km)

You cycle along the seaside promenade to the south of Lošinj and visit the picturesque small harbor town of Veli Lošinj before you meet the ship for lunch. In the afternoon you cross over to the island of Molat where you can do another short cycling tour. Finally you stay overnight in the quiet harbor of Molat.

May 29th. Island of Dugi Otok (32 km)

During breakfast the ship leaves Molat and takes you past many small islands to the "spice island" of Dugi Otok. Our bike tour starts in the bay of Božava which is surrounded by pine woods, agaves and tamarisk trees, and you ride on a road almost free of traffic. The tour leads you at first to the northern most point of the island where the light house of Veli Rat stands proudly since 1849 fulfilling its duty in guiding sailors safely on their way. A ride along the islands "Road in the Sky" brings you to the peaceful harbor of Savar or Bribinj. There will be ample time for a swim break in the afternoon. Overnight stay in a calm bay.

May 30th Island of Pag - Rab (20 km)

After a crossing in the morning you reach the island of Pag. In the harsh but delightful landscape of the island you come across many fig and olive trees. Over the centuries the inhabitants have built numerous stone walls for protection against the wind. Starting from Novalja you cycle on the narrow peninsula until you reach the sea from where the ship takes you to Rab. The island of Rab is one of the sunniest places in Europe. The town of Rab, the fortified capital of the island, was built in the Middle Ages on a wedge shaped headland and marks one of the highlights of the trip. The four famous bell towers are the symbol of the adorned beauty of the town. After dinner you can explore the narrow alleys with numerous cozy cafés.

May 31st. Island of Rab (25 km)

You cycle along the coast to the east side of the island, an area with virtually no vegetation, which's rough and cliffy rocks remind us of a lunar landscape. The road leads you to a bay with a sandy beach which is rather atypical for the islands of the Kvarner Bay. At lunchtime the ship awaits you in the harbor directly in front of the old town of Rab. After a swim-break the ship takes you over to the neighboring island of Krk where you spend the evening in the historical town of Krk.

June 1st Island of Krk (45 km)

You cycle over the ridge of the island which is covered by fragrant macchia to a valley of vineyards and then onwards to the small museum town of Vrbnik in the northeast. The town built on a 50-meter-high cliff and surrounded by vineyards is the home of the famous white wine Žlahtina. Another peculiarity that Vrbnik has to offer is the second narrowest alley in the world. The way leads you across the island through old villages and rich vegetation to Omišalj. On your way you have a chance to swim in the bay of Soline. The last evening aboard takes place traditionally and includes the communal dinner and a last get-together in a cosy atmosphere with crew and tour guides.

June 2nd Omišalj (Disembarkation)

After breakfast disembarkation until 9 am and individual trip home or extended stay in Croatia (transfer to the airport is included in the price).

Included services:**1st leg:**

- 7 nights hotel 3/4* (and a guesthouse) accommodation
- 7 Breakfast buffet + 7 dinners
- English speaking tour leader
- Standard bike rental
- Luggage transportation
- Transfer from Bolzano to Resia Pass
- Girolibero Greens Cycling Guide + route descriptions + maps
- 4-hour ferry cruise through Lake Garda
- 7-days Hotline service

2nd leg:

- embarkation and disembarkation charges;
- boat trip as per program;
- full board on board (commencing with the dinner and ending with the breakfast): 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 7 dinners;
- use of the board fitting;
- sheets and towels;
- road book, cycle guide (maps 1:75.000) and info-pack with descriptions of the tour (1 x cabin);
- English speaking tour leader on bike;
- bus transfer Ferrara - Adria;
- half week service of cabin cleaning and towels change.
- Transfer Venice – Omišalj

3rd leg:

- 8-day-trip on the motor yacht Linda
- 7 nights in a double cabin below deck with shower/toilet
- 4 days full board and 3 days half board
- guided bike rides and sightseeing as described in itinerary
- Overview-maps for the daily tours on board
- Bed linen and towels
- Transfer from Omišalj to Zagreb Airport (if needed)
- English-speaking tour guide