Italy - Slovenia - Croatia - From Venice to Trieste and Istria Bicycle Tour 2023
Self-Guided Tour
8 Days / 7 Nights

The starting point of this cycle tour is "la Serenissima", Venice the lagoon city on the shores of the Adriatic Sea. Cycling past the beaches of the classical holiday resorts of Jesolo and Caorle on the Italian Adriatic, an opportunity always presents itself to take a refreshing swim in the sea. Due to this fact, you should never forget to pack your swim gear. Besides these beaches, the inland regions of the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia offer countless sites with very special charm waiting to be discovered; Mediaeval fortress towns; Roman archaeological excavations; typical Italian Piazzas and buildings embossed with Venetian influences causing the visitor to forget time and space. While on the one side, the Adriatic stretches calmly and silently, the Julian Alps rise majestically to the north. Finish with a trip down the beautiful Croatian peninsula of Istria. The return journey to Venice can be done by boat.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival in Venice mainland/Mestre

Individual arrival at the hotel on the mainland of Venice. The "Serenissima" with all its splendid buildings invites to a primary inspection. The city of Venice has a well-organized and easily accessible public transport system. (There is a bus or train stop near to the hotel).

Day 2: Venice mainland/Mestre – Jesolo/Caorle 35 - 80 km

Today you have two possibilities: either you cycle along the dam and the lagoon to Venice or you cycle through the back country following the river Sile to reach Jesolo/Caorle. The first few kilometers in the lagoon city are carried out by bicycle. Then you take a ferry across to Punta Sabbioni (ticket not included). On the endless beaches at Litorale di Cavallino, a spit of land in the north of the lagoon, the route is lined by numerous fishing boats and souvenir stalls. Before you leave Venice through the "backdoor", the opportunity exists for an excursion to the lighthouse at the outmost end of the island for a last view of the lagoon city and the surrounding islands. On the way to Jesolo one can hardly resist the opportunity to have a refreshing dip into the cool wet. You spend the night in Jesolo or Caorle. If you choose the alternative through the hinterland you cycle along the river Sile. This natural finish river carries always a constant amount of water and flows quietly; that's why its name is derived from the Latin word "silet" what means "keep silent". Passing the ruins of Torre Caligo, a tower from the Middle Age which is situated near the homonymous canal "Caligo", you directly reach Jesolo. If you will spend the night in Caorle you continue cycling along.

Day 3: Jesolo/Caorle – Concordia Sagittaria/Portogruaro 30 - 35 km

Along the coast and once you have passed the last fishermen's cottages, you reach Caorle, a wonderful, small seaside resort with a historical center. On reaching this destination, it signifies leaving the sea for a while as the direction is dictated by the mainland in the direction of the Julian Alps on the horizon. During the spring period of the Venetian Republic, it was convenient for the interior to encompass Portogruaro as a very important River harbour in the "Serenissima". Even today there are those in Portogruaro who regard their city as the most Venetian. They are not entirely incorrect when you look at the Venetian embellishments of the magnificent buildings and places.

Day 4: Concordia Sagittaria/Portogruaro – Grado/Aquileia 65 km + boat from Marano Lagunare or 45 km, if the first part is additionally shortened by a train ride to Latisana; 85 km without boat

Besides the beaches of the Adriatic, there is a lot to discover; ruins of former Roman cities, ancient churches and lonely landscapes on the edge of the lagoon. From Marano Lagunare you take the boat (Category A included) until just before Aquileia, once a large city of the Roman Empire, excavations of the Roman city can be seen in the open air site and in two museums.

Day 5: Grado/Aquileia – Trieste 40 - 80 km short variant using the train; ticket not included)

Today's stage continues through the hinterland of Trieste, soaked in a meagre barren landscape of rocky caverns before returning to the sea and a coastline of unique beauty. Where the elevated plateaus plunge into the deep blue water and the white precipices stand upright jutting towards the heavens; and then the coastal road follows through suggestive resorts like Duino, Sistiana, Miramare, and Barcola. You should take time to visit the romantic castle of Miramare above the Bay of Grignano situated in the middle of a beautiful park in which a multiplicity of more the 2000 plants prosper. Above the Gulf of Trieste, entrenched is a city bearing the same name, once a harbour metropolis of the Habsburgs Empire and where you will be spending the night.

Day 6: Trieste – Piran/Portorož 35 km + ferry Trieste-Muggia* or 65 km depending on the chosen variant)

Only after a few kilometers today, we take leave of Italy. In Slovenia, the route continues predominantly on cycle paths through well-known seaside resorts like Koper (Capodistria) and Izola (Isola d' Istria), to Piran (Pirano) or to Portorož (Portorose), a spa resort on the Slovenian Riviera. There is a little bit longer alternative of this stage which passes along the valley "Rosandra" in the back country. *Tickets not included.

Day 7: Piran/Portorož – Poreč 70 km

Cycling past the salt gardens of Secovlje where on enormous surfaces and through natural vaporization, sea salt is recovered, you cross over the border into Croatia. For a distance, the route goes through the Croatian part of Istria, the largest peninsular on the Adriatic with its slightly hilly terrain on the way to Porec, the most important coastal city on the west coast of Istria. It is certainly worth a visit to Euphrasian Basilica which has been taken up by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

Day 8: Departure

Individual departure or possibility to extend your stay in Porec.

Route

Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Easy. The cycle trip to Istria is flat until shortly before Trieste, then it continues slight hilly until Porec. The tour is suitable for children from the age of 14.

Distance: 255 - 430 km

Travel Season: Departures Wednesdays and Saturdays from April 15 to September 30, 2023
  Season 1: April 15 and September 30
  Season 2: April 16 – June 16 and September 11 – September 29
  Season 3: June 17 – September 10
  No departures from July 22 – August 18

Price per Person:

Double Occupancy B&B Season 1	€ 699.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 2	€ 799.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 3	€ 899.00
Surcharge Single Occupancy	€ 199.00
Rental Bike (21 gear)	€ 99.00
Rental TOP bike (21 gear)	€ 159.00
Rental Electric Bike	€ 229.00
Extra Nights Venice mainland/Mestre Double Occupancy B&B	€ 89.00
Extra Nights Venice mainland/Mestre Single Occupancy B&B	€ 118.00
Extra Nights Porec Double Occupancy B&B	€ 89.00
Extra Nights Porec Single Occupancy B&B	€ 124.00

Accommodation:

Hotels in 3* and 4* category

Included:

- 7 night's accommodation
- Breakfast buffet or a full breakfast
- Personal tour information
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Ship transfer on Day 4
- Well planned routes
- Detailed documents (maps, route description, places to visit, important telephone numbers)
- Telephone service hotline for during the entire tour

Not Included:

- Visitor's tax payable locally

Bikes

Hybrid Bike

Mens Trekking Aluminum, with water bottle holder, Shimano Alivio/Deore 21 gear freewheel, Royal saddle, size S-XL
Women's Trekking Shimano Alivio/Deore, 21 gear freewheel, Royal saddle, step-through frame, size S-XL

TOP Bike

Electric Bike

Aluminum frame with bottle holder, with shock absorbing forks, Shimano Deore XT 10x3 gears and Shimano oil disk XT breaks, size S-XL

Step through frame, Bosch Performance Line Motor, 8 gear, range performance: approx. 200 km (using middle/constant speed)