

# Cycling Europe

THREE COUNTRY BIKE TOUR 2020

**ITALY – SLOVENIA – CROATIA**

**SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR, VENICE TO POREC**

**8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS 255 – 430 km**



The starting point of this cycle tour begins with “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 to take a refreshing swim. The inland regions of the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia offers countless sites with very special charm waiting to be discovered; Medieval fortress towns; Roman archaeological excavations; typical Italian piazzas and buildings embossed with Venetian influences. While on the one side the Adriatic stretches calmly and silently, the Julian Alps rise majestically to the north. The tour ends on the beautiful Croatian peninsula of Istria. Return journey to Venice can be done by boat.

## TERRAIN / GRADE

The cycle trip is flat until just before Trieste, then it begins to climb slightly until Porec. Electric bikes are available for this tour (limited number - on request).



## Highlights and places of interest along the route

Venice and the surrounding offshore islands

- The Italian seaside towns of Cavallino, Caorle, Jesolo and Grado
- The beaches of the Adriatic
- The important river port of Portogruaro for the maritime power of Venice
- Aquileia, a big city at the time of the Roman Empire
- The castles of Miramare and Duino
- Piran – a former Venetian town on the Slovenian coast

## ITINERARY

Please note that on Day 3, 4 & 6, you need to give your 1<sup>st</sup> choice of town when booking, as there are options. All options are subject to hotel availability. We recommend Day 3 – Portogruaro, Day 4 – Aquileia, & Day 6 - Piran.

### Day 1: Arrival in Venice Mestre

Individual arrival in Mestre (the mainland of Venice). The city of Venice will captivate you with its splendour; grand palaces, beautiful Basilicas, St Mark's Square, hidden corners and bustling restaurants. Make sure you allow plenty of time to explore. Our representative will meet you for a bike fitting and briefing in the evening.

### Day 2: Venice Mestre – Jesolo/Caorle

**(approx. 35 km or 80 km depending on the chosen route option)**

Today you have two choices, 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.

#### **If you choose the option “Dam & Venice Lagoon:**

The first few kilometres in the lagoon city are carried out by bicycle. Then you take a ferry across to Punta Sabbioni (ticket not included in the “package-price”). 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. There are numerous opportunities to relax and swim so be sure to pack your swim gear. You will stay overnight in Jesolo or Caorle.

### **Alternative route through the hinterland you cycle along the river Sile:**

This river carries a constant amount of water and flows quietly, its name derived from the Latin word "silet". Pass the ruins of Torre Caligo, a tower from the Middle Ages near the canal "Caligo". Continue on to Jesolo or Caorle.

### **Day 3: Jesolo/Caorle – Concordia Sagittaria/ Portogruaro (approx.30 - 50 km)**

Along the coast and past the last fishermen's cottages, you reach Caorle a wonderful, small seaside resort with a historical centre. From here you can see the Julian Alps on the horizon. Your next stop is the town of Portogruaro, one of the main centres in the period of the "Serenissima Republic of Venice", which is still impressive even today with its glorious "Palazzi" or "palaces". You will stay overnight in Concordia Sagittaria, Portogruaro or Bibione depending on availability.



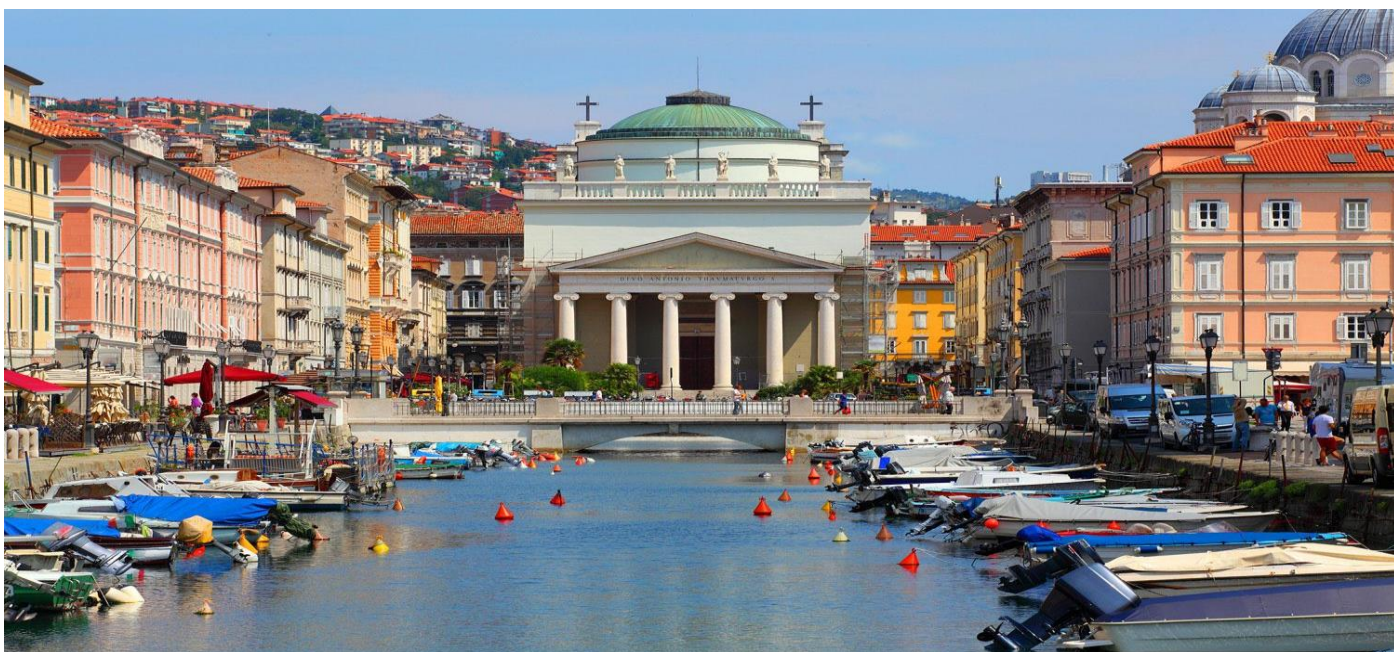
### **Day 4: Concordia Sagittaria/ Portogruaro – Aquileia or Grado (approx. 65km with boat from Marano Lagunare or 45km with train to Latisana). Otherwise 85km.**

Besides the beaches of the Adriatic, there is a lot more 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 until just before Aquileia. You can choose to stay in 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. OR you can continue on to

Grado a popular Italian seaside town with beach.

### **Day 5: Aquileia or Grado – Trieste (approx. 70 – 80 km or approx 40 km if shortened by a train sector (not included))**

Today's ride continues through the hinterland of Trieste, a barren landscape with rocky caverns, before returning to the sea and a coastline of unique beauty. Here the elevated plateaus plunge into the deep blue water. The coastal road follows through the resorts of Duino, Sistiana, Miramare, and Barcola. Take time to visit the romantic castles of Duino and Miramare above the Bay of Grignano and situated in the middle of a beautiful park. You will then arrive in the city Trieste, once a harbour metropolis of the Habsburgs Empire where you will spend the night.



### **Day 6: Trieste – Piran or Portorož (approx. 35 km + ferry Trieste-Muggia (ticket not included) or 65 km to Portoroz)**

Today leave 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 on to Portorož (Portorose), a spa beach resort on the Slovenian Riviera. There is the possibility of a slightly longer alternative route today which passes through the valley "Rosandra" in the back country, this may be less hilly.

**NB: Piran** is an old former Venetian town on the coast, not to be missed. We would recommend you choose to stay there. Portoroz is a modern seaside resort town, with not as much character.

### **Day 7: Piran or Portorož – Poreč (approx. 70 km)**

Cycling southwards, you pass through the salt mines of Secovlje, an ornithologist's paradise. A little while later you cross the Croatian border into Istria, the Adriatic Sea's largest peninsula. Your journey comes to an end amongst the red roofs of Poreč nestled on the blue Adriatic. The 6th century Eufasian Basilica (UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site) is one of Europe's finest examples of Byzantine art and just one of many fine buildings, squares, churches and sights to enjoy.

### **Day 8: Tour ends in Poreč after breakfast**

For an additional cost, we can book the ferry back to Venice (San Basilio ferry terminal). The ferry costs from €75 – 85 approx, depending on the season. The ferry usually departs Porec at 8 am and arrives in Venice at 10:45am – 11am. From here you can catch a boat to Venice Airport (do not book a flight before 3pm) or Venice Train station. If you wish to stay in Venice, ask for details of our 2 night "Discover Venice" package.



### **2020 SCHEDULE: SELF GUIDED**

Start every Saturday from 11 April to 3 October

Start every Wednesday May to September

**(Exception: Tour not available 25 July- 21 August inclusive)**

For a group of 5 or more we can request to a start of a tour on any day of the week - (dates on request and depending on the availability)

## 2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO (minimum 2 people)

Double/ twin room €819

Single room supplement €169

**High season surcharge** (20 Jun – 12 Sep) € 69

### **Rental Bikes & Helmets:**

21 Speed women's or men's bikes € 85

Electric bike €170 *(on request, limited availability)*

Helmet €10

## 2020 COST INCLUDES

- o Accommodation for 7 nights in 3 & 4\* hotels
- o Breakfast buffet or a full breakfast
- o Luggage transfers between hotels
- o Ferry tickets for Day 4 (subject to weather conditions)
- o Detailed information pack: maps, route description, places to visit, important telephone numbers) – 1 pack per room
- o Telephone service hotline

## 2020 COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- o City Hotel taxes are to be paid directly to the hotel €2 – 4 approx per person / per night
- o Ferry transfer from Venice to Punta Sabbioni
- o Ferry from Porec to Venice
- o Local train tickets
- o Lunches and dinners

### **Extra night in Venice (Mestre) 4 star Hotel**

Double room with breakfast €77 per person

Single room €100

### **Extra night in Porec 3 star Hotel**

Double room with breakfast €77 per person

Single room €112

## GETTING THERE

**Closest Airport: Venice**, it is a 15 min taxi ride to Mestre or Quarto d'Altino. There are frequent buses from Venice Airport to Mestre train station.

**By Train:** Take a train to the main Station in Mestre or Main Station in Quarto d'Altino and either a bus or take a taxi to the hotel from where the tour commences from.

### **Fast Catamaran : Porec to Venice (San Basilico)**

Departs Poreč at approx. 8 am, and arrives at an estimated time of 10.45 to 11:15 am Venice.

*Cost per person: approx. € 75,00- €85 (depending on the season)*

Price per bicycle: approx. € 10,00 (limited numbers, max. 4 bikes)

**Rental bikes can be left without extra cost at the last Hotel in Porec and do not have to be transported on the ship. To book the ferry we require the following details: Name, date of birth, nationality, Passport number and validity dates.**

Book through:

# A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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