

Italy – South Tyrol and the Dolomites



Trip Summary

Three hiking days in South-Tyrol and the Dolomites, plus two days of cycling as we follow the Etsch River (or Adige River, as it's called in Italy) on a gentle, predominately downhill ride, always with the majestic peaks of the Alps and Dolomites as your backdrop.

Itinerary

Day 1: Burgeis

We meet in Verona in the morning and begin the day with a transfer to Katharinaberg • Our hiking trail leads us through the nature preserve Texelgruppe, offering fine views high above the Schnalstal valley • For lunch, we will stop at one of the pretty mountain farms which offers home-made delicacies • We then start the descent to Naturns, a lively town down in the valley • Once in Burgeis, check out the beautiful 12th century Romanesque frescoes at the Marienberg Monastery Crypt • This evening we'll gather for a grand welcome dinner with South-Tyrolean specialties in the restaurant of our hotel • *(L, D) Overnight at Hotel Mohren & Plavina*

Day 2: Merano

Enjoy a morning of breezy down-hills, reminding yourself to slow down and take in the jaw-dropping panoramas that unfold around you • Snap photos of the Parochial church perched just outside the walls of the small fortified village of Glurns • Break in Latsch for a nice group lunch • Visit the San Procolo church in Naturns, home to magnificent eighth-century frescos, the oldest in the German-speaking world • Stroll the white-marble village of Laas and immerse yourself in a world of miniature trains in Rabland • The day culminates in the aristocratic spa town of Merano, famous for its picturesque promenades, towering cathedrals and lush gardens • A gourmet meal will be served tonight at Hotel Meranerhof's restaurant • *(B, L, D) Overnight at Hotel Meranerhof*

Day 3: Merano

Today we trade our cycling shoes for walking boots beginning with the Tappeiner promenade winding high above Merano, followed by the Meraner Höhenweg (reached by cable car), on our way to Dorf Tirol, a charming town dominated by its 12th century castle • In the afternoon, explore the magnificent Trauttmansdorff castle and award-winning gardens in the outskirts of Merano • If you prefer to pedal, opt to follow a peaceful bike path through the Passeiertal Valley • In Sankt Leonard, a charming hilltop Tyrolean village, visit the folk art Passeier Museum, where you can enjoy an exhibit on the Tyrolean freedom fighter Andreas Hofer and explore old farmsteads typical of the region • The evening is yours to discover Merano on your own • *(B, L) Overnight at Hotel Meranerhof*

Day 4: Bolzano

A short day in the saddle today leaves ample time to explore the surrounding sites, including Sigmundskron Castle and the MMM Firmian Museum founded by mountaineer Reinhold Messner • In the lively town of Bolzano, we'll visit the Museum of Archaeology, where the famous Ötzi is on display; this well-preserved mummified corpse was found in 1991, after spending 5300 years frozen in Alpine ice! • Marvel at the pink sandstone and multicolored roof tiles of the village Duomo (cathedral) • Check in to the ParkHotel Laurin, your home for the night, before enjoying an exotic dinner made of locally-grown ingredients • *(B, D) Overnight at ParkHotel Laurin*



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Day 5: Bolzano

This morning we transfer into the Dolomites to St-Ulrich, where we take the cable car to 6000 ft • The Alpe di Siusi (Seiser Alm), is a large highland plateau, where the green meadows offer refuge to hundreds of grazing cows, surrounded by 10,000 ft mountains such as the Langkofel and Plattkofel • An easy 3.5 hour loop hike takes us from mountain hut to mountain hut through some of the prettiest and dramatic landscape • A charming restaurant will host you tonight as everyone gathers together for one last group dinner • (B, L, D) *Overnight at ParkHotel Laurin*

Day 6: Verona (departure)

After breakfast, a scenic transfer takes you to Verona where you will be dropped off wherever you please – at your hotel, the airport or the train station • If you have time in Verona, be sure to visit Juliet's Tomb in the Capuchin cloisters, adjoining the little church in which Romeo and Juliet were married • (B)

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Biking:

Day 2 mileage options: 41 / 47

Day 4 mileage options: 23 / 27

Walking/Hiking:

Day 1 hike mileage options: 6 / 8

Day 3 hike mileage options: 4 / 8 / 11

Day 5 hike mileage options: 5 / 8

Discovery:

Just south of Austria lays sun-drenched South-Tyrol, a region of breathtaking beauty bordered by the Dolomite Mountains. The mountain landscape is dotted with fortified towns and opulent villas set amid robust vineyards, apple orchards and lush green pastures. Marvel at the well-preserved mummified remains of Ötzi, a 5,000-year-old Neolithic huntsman found beneath the ice of a glacier and preserved in a special refrigerated cell in the archaeological museum in Bolzano. Enjoy savory Austrian/Italian cuisine and luxuriate in one of Mother Nature's most pleasurable playgrounds.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to fit you to your bikes, explain the details of each ride and answer any questions. Each day your guides will help you choose the distance and route that is right for you.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Night 1: Hotel Mohren & Plavina

Hotel Mohren & Plavina is a traditional country inn in the center of the idyllic village of Burgeis. Relax in the wellness room, by the indoor pool or on an outdoor sunbathing area.

Nights 2 & 3: Hotel Meranerhof

Situated on the Passer River in the heart of Merano, the family-operated Hotel Meranerhof has been offering tastefully furnished rooms and a personal, friendly atmosphere for over 40 years.

Nights 4 & 5: ParkHotel Laurin

Built in 1910 and restored with great love for detail, the four-star ParkHotel Laurin in the heart of Bolzano offers modern comfort and service with an original Art Nouveau ambience.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Verona. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of the Grand Hotel in Verona at 8:30 a.m. A two hour transfer leaves us in Katharinaberg, where the hiking begins. After breakfast on Day 6, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Verona (1.5 hour transfer).

Trip Price

\$3,398 (\$680 single supplement)

Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

2020 Dates

June 28 – July 3
September 13 – 18

Host City

Verona, Italy
Airport Code: VRN

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*The best of two worlds in one:
South Tyrol is Italy
with an Austrian twist*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.