



Marco Milani



DESCRIPTION

Starting point for this bicycle holiday is Cividale del Friuli/surroundings, the medieval city of the Lombards. Cividale has a number of Lombard treasures, such as the famous Tempietto or the Ponte del Diavolo over the Natisone river. Carrying on your trip you will arrive at Gradisca d'Isonzo (in Slovenian *Gradišče ob Soči*). This little town in the east of Friuli nearby the border area of Slovenia has been the front between Austria and Italy in the First World War, well known for the 12 battles of the Isonzo. From here you explore the Friulian Plain, the important excavations of Aquileia, the lagoon of Grado and the karstic hinterland of the port city of Trieste with magnificent views of the glittering Adriatic Sea.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROUTE

The route runs on bicycle paths and alongside roads without traffic from the vineyards of the Collio to the Adriatic Coast. The tour is suitable for children from the age of 14.

self-guided tour

bicycle holiday / based in two hotels



DIFFICULTY: easy



DURATION: 8 days / 7 nights



DISTANCE: approx. 235 – 330 km



A DAY BY DAY ACCOUNT OF THE ROUTE

Day 1: Arrival

Individual arrival at the starting-hotel in Cividale del Friuli/surroundings.

Day 2: Round trip Cividale del Friuli – Udine (approx. 30 km or approx. 60 km longer variant)

On the first day, you have the possibility to choose between two round trips, a shorter and a longer one. The shorter tour leads to Prepotto (in Slovenian *Prapotno*). It is a picturesque village in the Province of Udine with old houses and winding alleys. The longer tour in addition leads you to the university city of Udine. You can visit the Dome, as well as the Loggia del Lionello, in the ground floor of the town hall.

Day 3: Round trip to Slovenia and to Brda (approx. 45 – 65 km)

This day takes you across the border to Slovenia, more precisely to Brda, meeting point of three cultures (Slavic, Romanic and Germanic). Brda is well known mainly because of the winegrowing but also for its castles and white churches which are situated mostly on hills.

Day 4: Round trip to the castles of the Collio (approx. 40 – 45 km)

The Gorizian hills (Collio in Italian) are well known due to their good wines, but it offers a lot for history lovers too. Today you cycle to the castles of the Collio, among which you can discover the castle Rocca Bernarda. This castle was a fief of the patriarchy of Aquileia and had been given as a present to the city of Cividale. The city left it to the Roman family Capiferro in the 15th century. The beautiful castle in the style of the 16th century is situated in the midst of extensive parks, on a hill surrounded by vineyards. Thanks to the dedication and the competence of Gaetano Perusini the cultivation of the “Picolit” grapes started, which have gained worldwide renown over the years.

Day 5: Cividale del Friuli – Cormons – Gradisca d'Isonzo (approx. 35 km or approx. 45 km longer variant via Gorizia)

Today you leave Cividale and cycle to Cormons, the cultural and economic centre of the Gorizia Hills (Collio). The main square of Cormons invites you to take a break and enjoy a glass of wine. Continue to Gradisca, a small town near the border with Slovenia. The Palazzo dei Provveditori in the old town houses the Enoteca Regionale, where you should end the day with a good drop of wine. Overnight stay in Gradisca d'Isonzo.

Day 6: Round trip to Aquileia (approx. 45 km or approx. 75 km longer variant)

This bicycle journey takes you to the formerly biggest city of the Roman Empire. Today the remnants of this settlement are still to be seen. Discover the secrets of the Roman city of Aquileia, the so-called “Second Rome”; Roman ruin sites, ancient churches. It is worth visiting the Aquileia Cathedral, which interior has a mosaic pavement.

Day 7: Gradisca d'Isonzo – Trieste (approx. 40 km)

On the last day of the cycle holiday Trieste, the former Habsburg city, is waiting for you. On the first part of the route the Karst Plateau accompanies you until you reach the Adriatic Sea. Following a breathtakingly beautiful coastal area, you cycle towards your destination. Miramare Castle invites you for a last visit before you enter the old port and trading city of Trieste. Return by train (ticket included).

Day 8: Departure

Individual departure or possibility to extend your stay.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Classification of the cycle tour: self-guided tour

Duration: 8 days/7 nights

Distance: approx. 235 – 330 km

Starting point: Cividale del Friuli/surroundings

ARRIVAL

By car: From the north via the motorway A10 to Villach and further on the A23 to Udine (exit Udine Nord); on the provincial road 54 to Cividale del Friuli; from the west via the A4 – via Milan and Venice – and further on the A23 to Udine (exit Udine Sud); via San Giovanni al Natisone to Cividale del Friuli.

By train: Good possibilities for arrival to Cormons by train. From there you continue by bus. Timetables: www.deutschebahn.de, www.oebb.at, www.trenitalia.com

By plane: Airports Trieste, Mestre and Ljubljana. There are good train connections from all these cities to your starting point.

ACCOMMODATION

Agriturismo or hotel in 3-star-category in Cividale del Friuli/surroundings and hotel in 4-star-category in Gradisca (with swimming pool) //

Attention: Tourist tax – if requested – has to be paid on the spot.

PARKING

Parking facilities at your starting-hotel.

TRANSFER

Every Tuesday and Sunday: Return transfer from Gradisca to Cividale del Friuli by shuttle bus – €60.00 per minivan + €29.00 per own bike (1 – 8 persons; reservation and payment on the spot).

RENTAL BIKES

- 21-gears women's or men's bicycle
- Rental Bike TOP
- E-bike (UNISEX bike, 500 W battery; range up to 100km)

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Accommodation in Agriturismo or hotel in 3-star-category in Cividale del Friuli/surroundings and hotel in 4-star-category in Gradisca (with swimming pool)
- Breakfast buffet or full breakfast
- Dinner (minimum three-course menu)
- Luggage transfer from Cividale del Friuli to Gradisca
- Transfer by train from Trieste to Sagrado (bicycle included)
- Well planned routes
- Detailed documents (maps, route description, places to visit, important telephone numbers)
- Telephone service hotline for the entire tour
- Navigation app

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- Arrival to the starting point of the tour
- Departure at the end of the tour
- Drinks, tourist tax and all extras
- Lunch
- Not mentioned entries
- Rental bikes and travel insurance
- All not expressly mentioned under the item "Included services"

STARTING DATES 2023

ARRIVAL

Every Tuesday and Sunday: 09/04/2023 (first available date) to 08/10/2023 (last available date)

NON SCHEDULE ARRIVAL DATES

Minimum of 5 persons upon request!

PRICES 2023

SELF-GUIDED TOUR	
Package price per person in a double room incl. halfboard – Season 1*	€ 699.00*
Package price per person in a double room incl. halfboard – Season 2**	€ 819.00**
Package price per person in a double room incl. halfboard – Season 3***	€ 899.00***
Single room surcharge, per person	€ 209.00
ADDITIONAL SERVICES	
Rental Bike	€ 99.00
Rental Bike TOP	€ 139.00
E-bike	€ 209.00
EXTRA NIGHTS IN GRADISCA	
Per person and night in a double room incl. breakfast	€ 79.00
Single room surcharge, per person	€ 19.00
EXTRA NIGHTS IN CIVIDALE DEL FRIULI	
Per person and night in a double room incl. breakfast	€ 69.00
Single room surcharge, per person	€ 19.00

* Season 1: arrival dates 09/04/2023 and 08/10/2023

** Season 2: arrival dates from 10/04/2023 up to and including 16/06/2023 and from 10/09/2023 up to and including 07/10/2023

*** Season 3: arrival dates from 17/06/2023 up to and including 09/09/2023

We suggest travel insurance. Changes in the offer as well as errors, printing errors and arithmetic errors reserved!