



Nicole Walze



DESCRIPTION

The Drau cycle path, which has been awarded 5-star quality cycle routes by the ADFC, leads from the source of the Drava in Dobbiaco in Italy along the river of the same name for 366 km through East Tyrol and Carinthia to Maribor in Slovenia. The tour starts in the second largest city in Carinthia. Villach is not only famous for its Carnival, but also known for its Villacher Kirchtag (folklore festival). From the border town Dravograd in Slovenia, the cycle path does not follow the valley floor, but accompanies the river slightly above on the slopes of the gentle mountains. You will be rewarded with magnificent views of the Slovenian Drava Valley. After Maribor, once the European Capital of Culture, and Slovenia's oldest city – Ptuj – the Baroque splendour of Varaždin welcomes you at the end of the journey.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROUTE

In Austria the tour mostly runs on the cycle path in flat terrain on asphalted and paved paths. More demanding in Slovenia with some uphill sections. However, these sections can be shortened by a train ride – also in parts. The tour is suitable for children over 16 years.

self-guided tour

bicycle holiday



DIFFICULTY: easy



DURATION: 8 days / 7 nights



DISTANCE: approx. 270 – 290 km



A DAY BY DAY ACCOUNT OF THE ROUTE

Day 1: Arrival

Individual arrival at the starting-hotel in Villach. Parking place close to the hotel available.

Day 2: Villach – Klagenfurt (approx. 40 km)

The cycle path first leads along the Drava river to Velden am Wörthersee. You cycle along Carinthia's largest lake on perfectly sign-posted cycle paths. Lake Wörthersee, which has a temperature of up to 28 degrees, is a playground for all those who love the water. Along the route there are several beach strips that invite you to take a break and a refreshing swim.

Day 3: Klagenfurt – Lake Klopeiner See (approx. 30 km)

You leave Lake Wörthersee and Klagenfurt with its famous landmark, the Lindwurm, and cycle leisurely along well-signposted cycle paths back to the Drava. You follow the course of the river for a few kilometres before turning off into the Lake Klopeiner See holiday region. With its 30 degrees Lake Klopeiner See is one of the warmest bathing lakes in Europe. The first swimmers venture into the pleasantly warm water as early as May.

Day 4: Lake Klopeiner See – Lavamünd/Dravograd (approx. 45 – 55 km)

From Lake Klopeiner See, the warmest lake in southern Carinthia, you continue to Lake Turnsee. On the way to Dravograd you pass idyllic villages with mountain panoramas. A special sight is the highest railway bridge in Central Europe, the Jauntal Bridge. You cycle always following the Drava into Slovenia.

Day 5: Lavamünd/Dravograd – Maribor (approx. 65 – 75 km)

Sporty cyclists particularly appreciate this stage. You leave the cycle path along the Drava and cycle on side roads and immerse yourself in idyllic villages. Passing beautiful villages you come to Fala and from there you cycle again into the Drava Valley towards Maribor. The uphill journey in the hinterland can be bridged by a train ride from Potvelka to Fala (approx. 18 km less – train ticket not included). In Maribor you can visit many different museums, such as the Museum in Maribor Castle (dedicated to Slovenian archaeology, ethnology, art, culture and fashion).

Day 6: Maribor – Ptuj (approx. 30 km)

Because today's stage is pretty short, you can enjoy the offers of sights and culture either in Maribor or at the stage destination Ptuj. The cycle route leads flat through nature and forest parks either west or east of your constant companion – the Drava river – to Ptuj, Slovenia's oldest town.

Day 7: Ptuj – Varaždin (approx. 58 km)

From picturesque Ptuj (German: *Pettau*), the trail continues past the 346-hectare Ptujsko jezero reservoir. In the wine-growing region, the trail leads through Ormož and Središče ob Dravi, whose history dates back to the Neolithic Age. Archaeological finds attest to a Neolithic settlement, the remains of Roman buildings and the early Slavic settlement. The destination of the trip is the magnificent Baroque town of Varaždin with its monuments and art.

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. 270 – 290 km

Starting point: Villach

ARRIVAL

By car: Villach is easily accessible on the motorways A2, A10 or A11 (depending on the point of origin).

By train: Good train connections to Villach. Timetables: www.deutschebahn.de, www.oebb.at, www.trenitalia.com

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

ACCOMMODATION

Inns or hotels in 3- or 4-star-category // Attention: Tourist tax – if requested – has to be paid on the spot.

PARKING

• Depending on the first hotel, unattended parking facilities are available either directly at your hotel or nearby.

• Public parking garage (approx. € 40.00 per week).

Reservation of the parking area/parking garage not possible; payable on the spot.

TRANSFER

On request: Return transfer from Varaždin to Villach by shuttle bus – € 125.00 per person + € 39.00 per own bike (reservation and payment upon booking).

RENTAL BIKES

• 21-gears women's or men's bicycle

• E-bike (UNISEX bike, 500 W battery; range up to 100km)

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Accommodation in inns or hotels in 3- and 4-star-category
- Breakfast buffet or full breakfast
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- 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, Dinner
- Not mentioned entries
- Rental bikes and travel insurance
- All not expressly mentioned under the item "Included services"

STARTING DATES 2024

ARRIVAL

Every Tuesday: 18/06/2024 (first available date) to 10/09/2024 (last available date)

DISABLED DATES (no start possible!)

13/08/2024 up to and including 20/08/2024

NON SCHEDULE ARRIVAL DATES

Minimum of 5 persons upon request!

PRICES 2024

SELF-GUIDED TOUR	
Package price per person in a double room incl. breakfast – Season 1*	€ 869.00*
Package price per person in a double room incl. breakfast – Season 2**	€ 919.00**
Surcharge double room for single use, per person	€ 219.00
ADDITIONAL SERVICES	
Rental Bike	€ 109.00
E-bike	€ 249.00
EXTRA NIGHTS IN VILLACH	
Per person and night in a double room incl. breakfast	€ 79.00
Surcharge double room for single use, per person	€ 29.00
EXTRA NIGHTS IN VARAŽDIN	
Per person and night in a double room incl. breakfast	€ 89.00
Single room surcharge, per person	€ 29.00

* Season 1: arrival dates from 18/06/2024 up to and including 09/07/2024 and from 03/09/2024 up to and including 10/09/2024

** Season 2: arrival dates from 10/07/2024 up to and including 02/09/2024

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