



CLASSIC
EDELWEISS TOURS

THE ULTIMATE ALPS TOUR

” Enjoy the highest mountains, the most beautiful lakes and the many passes of the Alps. “

RIDING DAY 1 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - PONTRESINA

Standard Route (258 km / 160 miles)

Today's route takes us through three different cultures, each marked by its own history. First we ride through the Upper Inn Valley, then we leave the Austrian North Tyrol in a southerly direction and thus reach South Tyrol, which has been part of Italy since 1919. People here speak both Italian and German, and even the signage is bilingual. In the Swiss Engadine, on the other hand, where we will be staying tonight, 15,000 people speak their own language, Romansh, or more precisely Bündnerromanisch. The architectural style and ornamentation of the respective houses also characterize these landscapes.

The medieval town of Glurns is a good place for a coffee break, as it is important to gather strength and focus the mind. After all, the Queen of Alpine roads awaits us, the famous Stelvio Pass with its 48 narrow hairpin bends. The highest road pass in the Eastern Alps is not reserved for expert riders only, but you should definitely be able to control your motorcycle safely.

At the top of the pass, which is 2,758 meters above sea level, you should buy yourself a souvenir, perhaps a T-shirt, and of course satisfy your hunger at Bruno's well-known sausage stand. And when you have eaten and seen your fill, then it's back down again, this time on the south side, which still offers 39 hairpin bends.

Over two smaller passes, we then reach the customs exclusion area of Livigno, treat ourselves to a cappuccino, some ice cream, or simply extremely cheap gasoline, and then ride over to Switzerland. The superbly built Bernina Pass is reminiscent of a mountain race track, but be careful: at over 80 km/h it can get very, very expensive here!

Our day ends in Pontresina, a pretty little town sometimes referred to as the quiet little sister of Sankt Moritz.

Highlights:

#1: Gacher Blick



Thousands of years ago, people were already coming to the Piller saddle and were captivated by the "sheer view" and the fascinating vista of the Upper Inn Valley. In those times, traveling across the Alps on those demanding paths was hard work, but for us motorcyclists today this road up to the Piller saddle means just great riding fun.

The word "gach" was generally used as a synonym for "sudden". Here, in the Tyrolean Uplands, it also is used to replace "fast" (meaning sudden), "sheer", or "steep". And here at this point, the cliff indeed shows a drop of approx. 800 m (2,600 ft.)

#2: Lago di Resia (Lake Reschen)



Prior to the creation of the reservoir lake, the Reschenpass featured three lakes. Expropriations for this project already began under the Fascist government in 1940-41. A total of 163 houses and 523 hectares of fertile soil, including the village Graun and a large part of the village Reschen, drowned in the new lake. Despite great protests from the population, the project could no longer be stopped. Today

we still see the listed church steeple of Graun bizarrely peeking out of the lake.

#3: Glorenza (Glurns)



With 924 inhabitants, Glurns is Italy's smallest city. Located on the old salt trade route, the town was very important during the 14th and 15th centuries. During the Engadin War between the Habsburg army and the Swiss farmers in 1499, the town was destroyed. The inhabitants rebuilt their hometown in the 16th century surrounding it with a new 10 m (30 ft.) high wall. It seems Glurns has been sleeping since that time and, hence, preserved its medieval character.

#4: Passo dello Stelvio (Stelvio Pass) (2758 m)



Planned in 1818, this pass road was built within 5 years (1820-1825) by about 2,000 workers. Because of the horse-drawn vehicles of the time, the gradient was limited to a maximum of 11%. At an altitude of 2,758 m (9,048 ft), Passo dello Stelvio is the highest pass in Italy and the second-highest paved pass of the Alps. With its 48 tight switchbacks on the northern side, it is a tourist attraction

famous all over Europe and a first-class attraction for European riders. You will love it, too!

#5: Bernina Pass (2328 m)



Switzerland is surrounded by several countries of the EU. It is only natural that quite a number of passes are bordering to some of these countries. Such as the Bernina pass. It has its starting point in the Italian town of Tirano, meandering across to Pontresina in Switzerland on the other side. Don't miss out on a coffee stop on top of the pass to enjoy the view of the Bernina mountain glaciers.

Optional Route (221 km / 137 miles)

If you find the Stilfserjoch too demanding or the weather too bad, you can easily bypass the challenging pass. In Glurns, follow the signs in the direction of Switzerland and you will arrive in Val Müstair. In the first village, Müstair, you will see the Benedictine monastery of St. John, which has stood here for over 1200 years. The frescoes inside are unique!

Afterwards, the road leads up to the Ofenpass, which is named after the smelting furnaces that were used to extract iron here in the past. Today, it is no longer the iron that attracts visitors, but above all the riding fun and the cozy inn at the top of the pass.

Through a single-lane toll tunnel, we then reach Livigno, where we rejoin the standard route.

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#4: St. John in Müstair



The Convent of Saint John is an ancient Benedictine monastery and, due to its exceptionally well-preserved heritage of Carolingian art, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983. It is believed that the abbey was established in 780 by a bishop of Chur. It was converted into a nunnery in 1167. During the 20th-century restoration works, some Romanesque frescoes from the 1160s were discovered there. Other murals are dated to Charlemagne's reign. UNESCO recognized these as "the most important cycle of paintings which is presently known dating from ca. 800.

#5: Livigno



The small town (6000 inhabitants) is situated at an altitude of more than 6000 feet. Due to its extremely remote location, in 1805 Napoleon declared the village to be duty-free - hoping that this would help the village's development. This status remains unchanged today, making Livigno very attractive for shoppers and skiers.

RIDING DAY 2 : PONTRESINA - BRUNNEN

Standard Route (332 km / 206 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (350 km / 217 miles)

WEGGIS - VITZNAU - GERSAU - BRUNNEN - ALTDORF - WASSEN - ANDERMATT - OBERALP PASS (2044 M) - DISENTIS / MUSTÉR - LUKMANIER PASS (1914 M) - BIASCA - CLARO - ARBEDO-CASTIONE - SAN VITTORE - LOSTALLO - PASSO DI SAN BERNARDINO (2067 M) - SPLÜGEN - PASSO DELLO SPLUGA (SPLÜGEN PASS) (2115 M) - CHIAVENNA - MALOJA PASS (1815 M) - ST. MORITZ - PONTRESINA

This route today is all about mountain passes and curves, curves, curves! We're heading west, towards the unofficial (very unofficial) Swiss Motorcycle National Park. It would actually be only 110 kilometers as the crow flies from Pontresina to Brunnen, but even the most direct roads there double that distance. For those who like it a bit more complex (i.e. spectacular, fantastic, breathtaking, etc.), this route is recommended. It takes you far south to Lombardy and Ticino, and then ends in the heart of Switzerland, on the shores of Lake Lucerne. You can look forward to a fantastic day of riding, with a late arrival at the destination hotel.

Highlights:

#1: Passo dello Spluga (Splügen Pass) (2115 m)



By climbing the 2,115 m (6,940 ft) Splügen pass you add a true riding highlight of the Swiss-Italian Alps to your pass collection. The challenge of the Italian south ramp lies in its tight switchbacks, which partially run through short but narrow avalanche tunnels. The north ramp on the Swiss side offers pure riding pleasure on its numerous turns, too. Already 2,000 years ago, the Via Spluga, as it was called back then, was considered to be one of the most important

connections between the Swiss canton Grisons and Italy. Goods were transported, and people were traveling from Thusis via the Via Spluga to Chiavenna and vice versa. The construction of the road as we know it today was finished in 1822. But after the tunnel through the nearby San Bernardino was completed, the Splügen pass has lost its importance, nowadays. Much to the pleasure of us motorcyclists.

#2: Passo di San Bernardino (2067 m)



In 1770, the original path over the Bernhardin mountain was finally turned into a "paved" road. The top of the pass was relocated to cross over the natural mountain saddle at its lowest point. At 2,067 m (6,780 ft), a mountain guesthouse was opened, which today serves as a restaurant and popular meeting point for motorcyclists. Once you've reached the top of the pass, you probably will feel like you've landed on the moon, standing in between the bare rocks and the mossy ground. The road down into the Tessin is twisty with some tight hairpins. On your ride down the mountain, you can find the new Bernardino highway, crossing over or under your road again and again. What a pleasure for us to be able to enjoy a quiet ride on this little frequented pass road.

#3: Lukmanier Pass (1914 m)



The Lukmanier-Pass is often disregarded as it parallels the more famous Gotthard Pass. But especially for the bigger or heavier bikes it is a good alternative, as there are hardly any switchbacks but even more long sweepers. The pass elevation is 1914m.

#4: Oberalp Pass (2044 m)



Oberalp Pass (Romansh: Alpsu or Cuolm d'Ursera, German: Oberalppass) at 2044 m (6706 ft) is a high mountain pass in the Swiss Alps, connecting the cantons of Graubünden and Uri between Disentis and Andermatt. The Rhine springs from a source nearby (Tomasee) and is marked by a working lighthouse that used to stand in Holland near the Rhine's mouth. It is the highest lighthouse in Europe!

#5: Altdorf



Altdorf is best known as the place where, according to the legend, Wilhelm Tell shot the apple from his son's head. This event supposedly took place in 1307 on the market-square, where in 1895, at the foot of an old tower (with rude frescoes commemorating the feat), there was set up a fine bronze statue (by Richard Kissling of Zurich) of Tell and his son. In 1899 a theatre was opened close to the town's center for the purpose of performing Schiller's play of Wilhelm Tell.

THE ULTIMATE ALPS TOUR



RIDING DAY 3 : BRUNNEN - ZERMATT

Standard Route (264 km / 164 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (278 km / 173 miles)

WEGGIS - VITZNAU - BECKENRIED - STANS - SARNEN - GISWIL - LUNGERN - BRÜNIG PASS (1002 M) - MEIRINGEN - SUSTEN PASS (2224 M) - WASSEN - ANDERMATT - FURKA PASS (2431 M) - GLETSCH - BRIG - VISP - TÄSCH - ZERMATT

Today's ride takes us to the edge of the French part of Switzerland and to the most famous village in the whole country, if not in the entire Alps: to Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn.

First thing in the morning, we start with a relaxing ferry ride across Lake Lucerne, one of the largest lakes in Switzerland. After that, we hopscotch a bit from village to village, but soon it's back up the mountains and onto the passes. First, the beautiful Susten Pass awaits, offering 45 km of pure riding pleasure. Then we make a detour to enjoy our lunch at the end of a secluded side valley. And then the next pass, the Furka, is expecting us. Here we follow in the footsteps of James Bond, on the east ramp there is even a curve named after him! Even more interesting, however, is the tongue of the Rhone glacier, which we get very close to on the descent to the west. A short walk to the ice is almost mandatory here!

Then in the evening, weather permitting, you can enjoy a spectacular view of the Matterhorn from the village of Zermatt.

Highlights:

#1: Susten Pass (2224 m)



The Susten pass stretches over 47 km (30 mi) between the Swiss villages of Innertkirchen and Wassen and, thus, is the longest road among the figure-eight circuit of passes around the famous ski resort of Andermatt. A waterfall, rushing down into the valley over a road tunnel, or the incredibly impressive scenery of mountains and glaciers above 2,224 m (7,300 ft), are only some features of this amazing, twisty pass road. Take your time and find a stop of your choice to savor this exhilarating first-class riding experience.

#2: Rhone Glacier



Imagine coming out of a hairpin turn and suddenly you are right in front of the Rhone Glacier – a dream? No, it's true! At least it used to be true, now you actually have to walk to see the glacier's tongue. Don't miss this opportunity for nice pictures and a walk into the blue world of glaciers. Each year, for the past 170 years, a new cave needs to be dug into the ice because it keeps moving by approx. 4

inches. At the beginning of the season in June, the cave measures more than 330 ft. but the glacier will be melting down by approx. 15 ft. during the summer. The melting water from the Rhone glaciers runs from here into the Lake of Geneva and then further on to the Mediterranean Sea down at Marseille, France.

#3: Zermatt



Zermatt is located at an altitude of 1,600 meters at the foot of the Matterhorn. The town has been completely car-free since 1931, all traffic is handled by electric vehicles. A stroll through the old streets brings the past alive, the old, lovingly maintained houses with the countless Swiss flags and in addition the mighty mountain panorama as a backdrop - this is Switzerland like from a picture book!

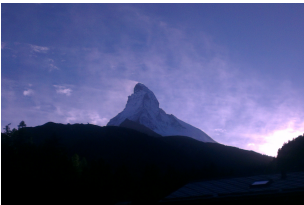
RIDING DAY 4 : ZERMATT

Standard Route (252 km / 157 miles)

It is not difficult to spend all day in Zermatt without getting bored. There is good shopping in town and good hiking around it and if you take the cog railway up to Gornergrat, you can not only see the Matterhorn up close and personal, but a whole line-up of huge, glacier-clad mountains. This panorama will easily take your breath away (just like the price for the ticket, probably...) and you'll be happy to stay up there for a while, just wandering around and looking and taking pictures. If you do want to ride your bike today, you could go to Verbier, a well-known ski resort. In summer there is not much going on there, but the road that leads up from the Rhone Valley is amazing. It leads across a little-known mountain pass known as Col de la Croix de Coeur. Have fun!

Highlights:

#1: Matterhorn



On July 13th, 1865, the locals saw seven climbers, four British accompanied by one guide from Chamonix and two locals, attacking the peak along the northeast ridge - the one that faces Zermatt. Being very lucky with the weather conditions, they reached the summit the next day and scored a victory over a party of climbers who, unaware of them, had set off to reach the summit from the Italian side.

#2: Gornergrat cog railway



The Gornergrat and the Matterhorn Railway

Haven't you always been dreaming about seeing the Matterhorn and getting as close as possible to it without taking the effort of the long and exhausting hike up?

Well, this morning you get the unique opportunity by taking the almost ten kilometer's ride on the Gornergrat rack railway. You shouldn't miss out on this incredible trip up to the observation deck on 3.089 m (10,140 ft.) above sea level. Floating past the impressive Swiss mountain scenery you will surely be completely blown away by the 360° view of a range of four thousand metre (13,000 ft) high mountain peaks and their glaciers. If the weather cooperates, it definitely is a must-see and will be an unforgettable experience for you!

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RIDING DAY 5 : ZERMATT - LUGANO

Standard Route (214 km / 133 miles)

Today we are moving around the Italian-speaking Swiss canton of Ticino and Italy. To get there, we cross the Simplon Pass and then ride down to the sun-drenched, palm-fringed shores of Lake Maggiore. Cannobbio is a picture-book town right on the lake, and there we'll indulge in a real Italian pizza or even a handmade gelato. Or both.

After lunch we ride a bit along the shore and then cross the lake with a small ferry. And then it gets really exciting - from a rider's point of view: the road over the Passo Sant'Antonio is extremely curvy and so narrow that you could swear you were on a one-way road. But you're not, and because passing places are rare, "interesting" situations can occur.

We cross the Swiss-Italian border directly at Lake Lugano and shortly thereafter reach the city of Lugano, which is beautifully nestled on the north shore of the lake. Here you can stroll along the palm-lined streets and enjoy the mild climate. No wonder Lugano is one of the most expensive cities in Switzerland...

Highlights:

#1: Simplon Pass (2006 m)



Simplon Pass (Italian: Passo del Sempione) is a high mountain pass at 2,006 m (6,581 ft) in the Lepontine Alps between Switzerland and Italy. It connects Brig in the canton of Valais with Domodossola in Piedmont. The pass itself, together with the first villages across the border such as Gondo, is still in Switzerland. The pass offers a breathtaking view and is a great place for a cup of coffee.

#2: Cannobbio



Italy like a picture book - that's Cannobbio! We park our motorcycles just a few medieval steps from the shore promenade of the small Italian town and then when you see Lago Maggiore in front of you, you feel very far away from the Alps. On the sun-drenched shore, the dolce vita reigns, the smell of cappuccino and gelato is in the air - it's like a dream!

#3: Lago di Lugano (Lake Lugano)



Lake Lugano (Italian: Lago di Lugano or Ceresio) is a lake in the south-eastern part of Switzerland, near the border between Switzerland and Italy. The lake, named after the city of Lugano, is situated between Lago Maggiore and Lago di Como. Lago di Lugano is quite a relief when it gets too cold in the mountains. Though still in Switzerland, you will already feel an Italian influence taking hold: the language changes, and pasta and cappuccino are available everywhere. Just enjoy the "Southern Spirit," by doing what the locals do: Sit down and relax.

RIDING DAY 6 : LUGANO - VAL DI SOLE

Standard Route (270 km / 168 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (290 km / 180 miles)

LUGANO - LAGO DI LUGANO (LAKE LUGANO) - MENAGGIO - VARENNA - BELLANO - PRIMALUNA - BARZIO - MOGGIO - VEDESETA - SAN GIOVANNI BIANCO - DOSSENA - OLTRE IL COLLE - COLLE DI ZAMBLA (1264 M) - PONTE NOSSA - CASTIONE DELLA PRESOLANA - PASSO DELLA PRESOLANA (1297 M) - DEZZO DI SCALVE - SCHILPARIO - PAISCO - EDOLO - PASSO DEL TONALE (TONALE PASS) (1884 M) - MEZZANA - VAL DI SOLE - MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO

Only those with sufficient stamina should give in to the allure of the long and quite demanding route that leads from Lake Como to Val Camonica via remote back roads. The roads are exceedingly narrow and winding, which can be quite tiring. There is no early exit, so the route is suitable only for dry weather. The alternative is to take the main road along the long and wide Valtellina valley.

In the morning we ride on the main road along Lake Lugano and over to Lake Como, which we cross with a small ferry. We stay on the eastern shore for only a few kilometers, then turn and hit the mountains and up to our first pass. Through a narrow gorge and over two more passes, we then reach Passo Vivione, the highest, longest, and most beautiful of these remote backroad passes.

We descend into the Val Camonica and finally reach Edolo in the Valtellina valley. Here things are much busier again and we follow the wide road up to the Tonale Pass. Here, ski tourism reigns supreme, which doesn't exactly beautify the landscape, but on the other hand, the choice of cafés and restaurants is great. From the Tonale Pass, we finally ride down into Val di Sole, the Sunny Valley, where our accommodation is located.

Highlights:

#1: Lago di Lugano (Lake Lugano)



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changes, and pasta and cappuccino are available everywhere. Just enjoy the "Southern Spirit," by doing what the locals do: Sit down and relax.

#2: Lago di Como (Lake Como)



Lake Como has been a popular retreat for aristocrats and wealthy people since Roman times, and a very popular tourist attraction, which boasts many artistic and cultural gems, and is famous for its numerous villas and palaces. Many celebrities have or used to have homes on the shores of Lake Como, such as Matthew Bellamy, Madonna, George Clooney, Gianni Versace, Ronaldinho, Sylvester Stallone,

and Ben Spies.

#3: Passo del Vivione (1828 m)



Passo Vivione, for sure, belongs to one of the most spectacular passes in the region of Lombardy. Once you are on this road it is hard to believe: this is the local's official and the only connective road between the Valle Pasco and Edolo in the northeast and the Valle di Scalve in the Italian province of Bergamo.

If you thought you've already seen the narrowest roads on earth, you haven't been riding over Passo Vivione yet.

RIDING DAY 7 : VAL DI SOLE - COLLALBO (KLOBENSTEIN)

Standard Route (190 km / 118 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (150 km / 93 miles)

MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO - PINZOLO - PREORE - STENICO - MOLVENO - ANDALO - FAI DELLA PAGANELLA - DERMULO - SANZENO - SAN ROMEDIO (SANCTUARY OF SAN ROMEDIO) - ROMENO - PASSO DELLA MENDOLA (MENDEL PASS) (1363 M) - BOLZANO (BOZEN)

Today we have a somewhat shorter, but still very interesting riding day ahead of us. It leads us to or to the vicinity of Bolzano, the capital of South Tyrol, and offers riding fun, culture, and a lot of fantastic scenery.

First, we ride right through the Adamello Brenta National Park and past the famous ski resort of Madonna di Campiglio. We circle the mighty mountain range of the Brenta Dolomites, which can best be admired at Lake Molveno when they are reflected in the mirror-like surface of the lake. Simply fantastic!

We then reach the Val di Non, whose wide valley floor is covered by vast apple orchards. Did you know that every tenth apple that grows in Europe comes from South Tyrol?

At the edge of the valley, we take a look at a highly interesting small monastery and then ride up to Monte Penegal, a panoramic mountain crowned by a panoramic hotel. From its terrace, you have an incomparable view down into the Adige Valley, to Bolzano, to Lake Kaltern, and across to the rock towers of the Dolomites. Nowhere does coffee taste as good as here, in the face of this immense panorama.

The Mendel Pass brings us down into the valley of the Adige River and to Bolzano. This city offers a lot of character, a lot of charm, and a lot of sights and if you want to arrive earlier to have a look around, you can also shorten the route. Your tour guide will be happy to help you plan it.

Highlights:

#1: San Romedio (Sanctuary of San Romedio)



The sanctuary of San Romedio is one of the most interesting medieval religious buildings in the Alps. It is located in Trentino province, nestled in the hills east of Lago di Santa Giustina on a 70 meter (230 ft) limestone cliff. Romedius, son and heir of a rich Bavarian family, went on a pilgrimage to Rome and didn't return home but became a hermit in the Non valley. Around the year 1,000 a chapel was erected over his tomb and over the next 900 years four more chapels and several other buildings were added, so different styles from different eras are visible today. The last chapel was consecrated as late as 1923. Romedio is the patron saint of pilgrims and hikers; the monastery and his tomb are a pilgrimage site, visited by more than 200,000 pilgrims every year.

#2: Penegal



From the top of Mendel Pass a narrow, twisty, and badly maintained road leads to the summit of Monte Penegal. Spectacular views are almost normal on this tour - but this is phenomenal even for this area. The difference in Elevation from here to Caldaro Lake, deep down in the Adige valley, is a whopping 1,500 meters (5,000 ft)! The sweeping views include Bolzano deep down towards the north, the Dolomites in the east, the Brenta Mountains in the southwest, and the Ortler (South Tyrol's highest peak) in the west. Penegal is an outstanding viewpoint, even in South Tyrol, and it is best enjoyed with a fresh Cappuccino.

#3: Bolzano (Bozen)



This area was settled by the Romans in 15 BC. General Nero Claudius Drusus, to whom the name of the first settlement in the area refers to, set up this army camp by the River Isarco. The village founded nearby was called Bauzanum. Since its foundation and elevation to a town over 800 years ago, Bolzano has been a trading point. The main reason for this was its location in between the two major cities of

Venice and Augsburg. Four times a year a market was held, and traders came from the south and the north. Therefore, a mercantile magistrate was founded in 1635. Every market season, two Italian and two German officers (appointed from the traders who operated there) worked in this office. The city was a cultural cross point at that time. The city's Italian-Austrian character, enhanced by the narrow cobblestone streets, Habsburg-era churches and pervasive bilingual signage, provide for the unique charm of a city halfway between Italian and Austrian cultures. Together with its natural and cultural attractions, this makes Bolzano a renowned tourist destination. Enjoy the great mixture of the Italian-Austrian lifestyle and cuisine in the wonderful historic centre of Bozen. In the archaeological museum in Bozen lies the more than 5000 years old Ice Man. The "Oetzi" or "Frozen Fritz", as he is called, was found in the mountains right on the Italian-Austrian border. Thanks to his discovery, many secrets of the way of life during his time in history were able to be revealed.

RIDING DAY 8 : COLLALBO (KLOBENSTEIN)

Standard Route (221 km / 137 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (0 km / 0 miles)

BOLZANO (BOZEN) - CORNEDO ALL'ISARCO (KARNEID) - ST. VEITH - SAN VALENTINO IN CAMPO (GUMMER) - PONTE NOVA (BIRCHABRUCK) - PASSO DI COSTALUNGA (KARER PASS) (1745 M) - MOENA - SAN PELLEGRINO PASS - CENCENIGHE AGORDINO - ALLEGHE - CAPRILE - SOTTOGUDA - PASSO FEDAIÀ (2,057 M) - CANAZEI - VIGO DI FASSA - PASSO DI COSTALUNGA (KARER PASS) (1745 M) - PASSO NIGRA (NIGER PASS) - PRATO ALL'ISARCO (BLUMAU) - BOLZANO (BOZEN)

This day offers a lot of options to spend a great rest day. You could take the cable car down to visit Bolzano, and to stroll through the old town, or to sit at the main square, living the Italian way of life with an espresso. Bolzano has also very good shopping opportunities, as well as sights to be admired. Maybe you want to visit the museum of the famous Iceman "Ötzi?"

For those who prefer to ride on the rest day, the area around Bolzano is ideal to be explored by bike.

Are you prepared for a wonderful day of riding the finest motorcycle roads? Come and experience the beauty of the Dolomites! A day full of twists and turns.

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#2: Lago di Carezza (Karer Lake)



The Karersee is so beautiful that you could think Kodak set it up to take the perfect postcard photo. It is often referred to as the "Jewel of the Dolomites", probably because of its spectacular emerald green color. Or is it its unique location between the mighty rock towers of the Latemar and the Rosengarten, reflecting in its smooth surface? The Ladin language knows this lake as "Lec de Ergobando", meaning

rainbow lake. A fitting name for this piece of art brought to you by Mother Nature.

#3: Dolomites



The name Dolomites is derived from the name of the French geologist, Déodat de Dolomieu. He discovered that the limestone in this area is different in its chemical composition compared to that of the northern limestone area. Special sedimentary rocks form incredibly rough and beautiful formations like Marmolada, Sella, and the Tre Cime de Lavaredo. They are the most photographed mountains of the Dolomites. Historically, it is an interesting place. Belonging to the Austrian Monarchy during World War I, the frontline led right through the mountains. Fighting from 1916 to 1919, the soldiers had to stay in the mountains through summer as well as winter. A really tough life! Austria was one of the losers of the war. At the peace treaty of St. Germain in 1919, they agreed to hand Southern Tyrol over to Italy. That leads us to the explanation of the bilingual road signs and village names. You can very easily pick out the former border between Italy and Austria by looking at your map or by reading the signs. Don't be confused if you see village signs in three languages. The third one is Ladinish, spoken by a few people in a small area. Be prepared for an unbelievable ride in an incredible area!

#4: Passo Fedaia (2,057 m)



You will find the most well-known rock formations of the Dolomite mountains on top of the Fedaia pass. Riding your motorcycle up the twisty mountain road to its highest point at 2,057 m (6,750 ft), an impressive vista of the mighty Marmolata mountain range welcomes you at the shores of the water reservoir. A unique experience is the ride along the concrete dam to the other side of the water reservoir, opening up more opportunities for pictures.

#5: Marmolada



At 3,343 meters (10,970 ft) the Marmolada is the tallest mountain in the Dolomites and the only one with a glacier. Like all glaciers in the Alps this one has rapidly been shrinking in the past few years due to global warming, but it is still an impressive sight and a famous ski resort. During WWI the front line between Italy and Austria-Hungary ran right over the mountain, so troops were quartered on both sides. Now, as the glacier retreats, soldiers' remains and belongings are occasionally discovered.

RIDING DAY 9 : COLLALBO (KLOBENSTEIN) - SEEFELD IN TIROL

Standard Route (240 km / 149 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (236 km / 147 miles)

BOLZANO (BOZEN) - SARENTINO (SARENTINO VALLEY) - CAMPOLASTA (ASTFELD) - RIO BIANCO (WEISSENBACH) - PASSO DI PENNES (PENSER JOCH) (2234 M) - PASSO DI MONTE GIOVO (JAUFEN PASS) (2094 M) - SAN LEONARDO IN PASSIRIA (ST. LEONHARD IN PASSEIER) - PASSO DEL ROMBO (TIMMELSJOCH) (2509 M) - SÖLDEN - UMHAUSEN - OETZ - OCHSENGARTEN - KÜHTAI (2017 M) - OCHSENGARTEN - HAIMING - SILZ - MÖTZ - MIEMING - SEEFELD IN TIROL

Three passes are on the agenda today, including the second-highest in the entire Eastern Alps! We start with a leisurely approach up to the Penserjoch, which is very popular with motorcyclists but altogether little used. Immediately after, the Jaufenpass awaits, which is a bit lower but offers equally spectacular views. In the "Edelweißhütte" we enjoy a coffee and admire the panorama.

Back down in the valley, we arrive in the small village of St. Leonhard, the birthplace of the Tyrolean freedom fighter Andreas Hofer. His home was the Sandwirt, which still exists today. Here we stop for lunch and you shouldn't miss taking a look at the ancient dining room, which is still in operation.

Afterwards, we climb the Timmelsjoch and cover almost 1800 meters in altitude! The road is narrow and the scenery spectacular, here it is easy to get distracted, but you should avoid that at all costs! After the summit tunnel, we cross the border to Austria where the road becomes much wider and smoother to ride. But the owners of the road sure make you pay for that...

After the pass, we ride down into the Ötztal and follow it to the end. Or almost to the end, because if we still have time, then we can add a fourth pass to our collection. The Kühtai is only just over 2000 m high but offers some nice curves once again. The day ultimately ends where our tour started just over a week ago, in Seefeld. Wow, what a trip!

Highlights:

#1: Passo di Pennes (Penser Joch) (2234 m)



99.9 % of all traffic flowing from the Brenner Pass down to Bolzano (and vice versa) follows the main road and expressway in the Eisack valley. The road across the Penserjoch and along the Sarntal valley is left to people with enough time, so to speak to the motorcyclists and the bicyclists. The two sides of the pass are very different from each other. From the south it's a 50 km ride from Bolzano to the pass while the northern ramp, from Sterzing, is only 15 km long and features way more curves, among them 8 hairpins. The road in the south has existed for a long time, the northern side, on the other hand, was only built in the 1930s. From the top you can enjoy great views of the main Alpine range and of the Dolomites.

#2: Passo di Monte Giovo (Jaufen Pass) (2094 m)



The 31 km long Jaufenpass (Passo di Monte Giovo in Italian) is very smooth to ride and always offers magnificent views of the South Tyrolean mountains. The pass summit at 2,094 meters is crowned by a tiny wooden hut called "Edelweissshütte". The small car park in front of it is often crowded with motorcycles from all over Europe.

#3: Sandwirt



The "Sandwirt" is located at the end of the Passeier valley, close to where the roads across the Jaufenpass and the Timmelsjoch meet. The farm has been here since the Middle Ages and from 1680 on was owned by the Hofer family. Today it is part of a museum and a very popular stopover for people from all over.

Andreas Hofer, the famous Tyrolean freedom fighter, was born in this house and the "Stube", or guest room, is still in it's original state of the 17th century. Hofer's last will is on display here, and the sign outside above the door is also original, hand-made in 1698. Both shouldn't be missed, just like the famous home-made "Marillenknödel", or apricot dumplings, an outstanding treat.

#4: Passo del Rombo (Timmelsjoch) (2509 m)



Long before the road was completed in 1969, people used the Timmelsjoch to cross the mountain range known as the Ötztaler Alps. At 2,509 m (8,231 ft), it is the second-highest pass in the eastern Alps (after Stelvio) and covers a vertical distance of more than 1,800 m (6,000 ft). Especially the Italian (southern) side is quite spectacular to ride, the views are breathtaking. In 1991, Ötzi the Ice Man was found on a slope about 20 km (14 mi) from the top of the pass. In April

2016, Europe's highest motorcycle museum opened its doors to the public, displaying a collection of 190 vintage bikes. Unfortunately, it burned to the ground in January 2021 and all bikes were lost. What a pity! The owners, however, went out of their lines and built up a new museum, which has been opened up again for visitors in the autumn of 2021.

#5: Kühtai (2017 m)



This is one of the many good motorcycle roads around the area of Innsbruck. It takes you up to 6,561 ft. above sea level and offers spectacular views of the Stubai Alps. The skiing area is well-known, but the name indicates that the area was and still is used to take the cattle to the alpine pastures during summer time. Watch out for their presence, and their "presents," on the road. Another interesting place to see here is the Kühtai power station.

Divided into two different stations, the upper one is located on 6,233 ft. above sea level. The second one lies approx. 270 ft. below the main plant. Electricity is transferred via power lines down to the valley and fed in the Austrian electricity network as well as into the Central European network.



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EDELWEISS BIKE TRAVEL // Sportplatzweg 14, 6414 Mieming, Austria
Tel.: +43 5264 5690 // Fax: +43 5264 5690 3

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www.edelweissbicycle.com