

SELF-GUIDED
EDELWEISS TOURS

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

“ The Dolomites are one of the world’s most stunning places and even more so on a motorcycle. ”

www.edelweissbike.com



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

RIDING DAY 1 : MIEMING - LAKE MILLSTATT

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (389 km / 242 miles)

We welcome you to the Mieminger Sonnenplateau, hopefully with sunshine and blue skies, to this tour through one of the most beautiful regions of the Alps. And we'll get started right away, with a long, intense, and very interesting day of riding!

First, we'll head up to Seefeld, a well-known winter sports resort, and continue across the border into Bavaria. In Wallgau you can admire the typical Bavarian Lüftmalerei on the houses and take a break before riding along the Sylvenstein reservoir and down to the Tegernsee. This is one of the most expensive corners of all of Germany, land with lake access hasn't been on the market for decades.

Soon after, you come to the first real mountain pass on this tour, the Sudelfeld. Right after the top of the pass, there is a small café where numerous motorcyclists often meet on sunny weekends.

Back in Tyrol, the trail takes you along the north side of the Kaiser Mountains and past Walchsee and Pillersee, both of which are beautifully nestled in the landscape. At the Pillersee, there is an inviting restaurant with a terrace right on the lake, which is a great place to stop for lunch. After that you change from Tyrol to Salzburger Land, the mountains get higher, the roads curvier and emptier. The Radstätter Tauernpass is today's highlight at 1,738 m, even if the top of the pass is not exactly photogenic "thanks" to the large ski circus. On the other hand, it is easy to find a nice café for this last break before reaching your destination. On the other hand, Gmünd would also be suitable for this last break, as it has an extremely picturesque old town and even a Porsche museum!

Lake Millstatt is only a few minutes away from here.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Mieming - Millstatt

Morning coffee: a classic among local motorcyclists, Schnauferl Wirt 1123er (WP Cafe Schnauferl Wirt 1123er) on the Sudelfeld Pass.

Lunch: some authentic Tyrolean food in the restaurant Blattl on the Pillersee (WP Rest Blattl, Pillersee, Phone +43 5354 88187).

Afternoon break: a perfect spot to take a rest is on the Obertauer Pass (WP Cafe Ferdinando, Obertauern or WP Rest Hintertürl, Obertauern), lots of cafes in this famous ski resort.

Photo stops: Sylvenstein Lake (WP Foto Sylvensteinsee), Tatzlwurm Waterfall after Sudelfeld Pass (WP Foto Tatzlwurm Waterfall), Walchsee for the Kaiser mountain (WP Foto Walchsee), Obertauern Pass (WP Radstätter Tauernpass).

Gas: you may need to fill up twice today: maybe in Saalfelden (WP Gas Saalfelden (OMV)) and then in Millstatt (WP Gas Millstatt (BP)) - 3 gas stations in the same spot.

Extra activities: if you still have time, before reaching Millstatt you could either visit the Porsche Museum in Gmünd (WP Porsche Automuseum) or take an extra loop on the very scenic and curvy Nockalm road (WP Nockalmstrasse) in the National Park Nockberge.

Dinner: fine dining at Familienhotel Post (Mirnockstraße 38, 9872 Millstatt, +43 4766 2108) or seaside dining in Seecafe Ertl Restaurant (Seepromenade 40, 9871 Seeboden, +43 664 9273313). Cocktail lounge terrace on the lake at Bar Kap 4613 (Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Straße 330, 9872 Millstatt, +43 664 3888318).

#2: Sylvenstein Dam



In the 1950s the government decided to protect the Isar valley from possible floodings and started to build the 150 ft high Sylvenstein Dam out of which Lake Sylvenstein emerged as a result. Nowadays, the Lake is a popular weekend destination for people from the surrounding area. A little village named Fall used to be located where the lake is today. In order to implement the erection of the dam and

the lake, the village had to be torn down and rebuilt again at another location near the lake shore.

#3: Sudelfeld Pass



The Sudelfeld Pass and the connecting Tatzelwurm Road are well-known among German and Austrian motorcyclists. The beautiful road just north of the Austrian border was closed for motorcyclists a few years ago, as too many bikers mistook it for a race track. But now it is open again and the café on top of the Sudelfeld Pass is a popular motorcycle meeting point.

#4: Kaiser Mountains



The Kaiser Mountains are divided into the Wilder Kaiser or Wild Kaiser chain of mountains, formed predominantly of bare limestone rock, and the Zahmer Kaiser ("Tame Kaiser"), whose southern side is mainly covered by mountain pine. It is one of the best-known mountain groups in the Eastern Alps and is of great importance both for climbers and for hikers. The largest part of the Kaiser

Mountains is nature reserve.

#5: Porsche Automuseum Helmut Pfefhofer



Why would there be a Porsche Museum in the middle of Austria? Shortly before the end of World War II, Ferdinand Porsche decided, that Gmünd would be a much safer location than Germany, so he moved his production site here. The first 356 models were built here in Gmünd, some of them can be seen in the museum.

Optional Route (328 km / 204 miles)

If you're not up to riding 400 km (250 miles) on your first day you can shorten it by using motorway A12 past the city of Innsbruck. Take the exit "Wörgl" and continue eastward, with the Kaiser mountain range on your left-hand side. Ellmau, a picture-perfect Tyrolean village, is perfect for a coffee break. St. Johann, a bit further down the road, is also very nice but much bigger.

The remaining route is the same as the standard one, past Mount Hochkönig and across the Radstädter Tauernpass, down to Gmünd, and onwards to Millstatt. Thanks to the motorway, you can save about two hours of riding time on this route. Please don't forget that you need a toll sticker to use the Austrian motorway. You can get it at any gas station; choose the one that is valid for 10 days, it costs around 5-6 Euros.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Mieming - Millstatt (short)

Morning coffee: after leaving the highway, in Söll in coffee shop Nani (WP Café Nani, Söll).

Lunch: some authentic Tyrolean food in the restaurant Bachmühle in Leogang (WP Rest Bachmühle Leogang), Sonnberg 148, 5771 Leogang, +43 6583 7132).

Afternoon break: a perfect spot to take a rest is on the Obertauern Pass (WP Radstätter Tauernpass), lots of cafes in this famous ski resort.

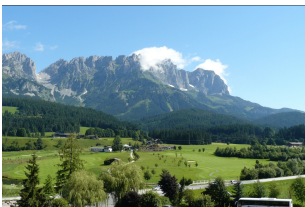
Photo stops: around Ellmau for the Kaiser Mountains and on Obertauer Pass (WP Obertauern).

Gas: you need to fill up twice today: maybe in Saalfelden (WP Gas Saalfelden (OMV)) and then in Millstatt (WP Gas Millstatt (BP)) - 3 gas stations in the same spot.

Extra activities: if you still have time, before reaching Millstatt you could either visit the Porsche Museum in Gmünd (WP Porsche Automuseum) or take an extra loop on the very scenic and curvy Nockalm road (WP Nockalmstrasse) in the National Park Nockberge.

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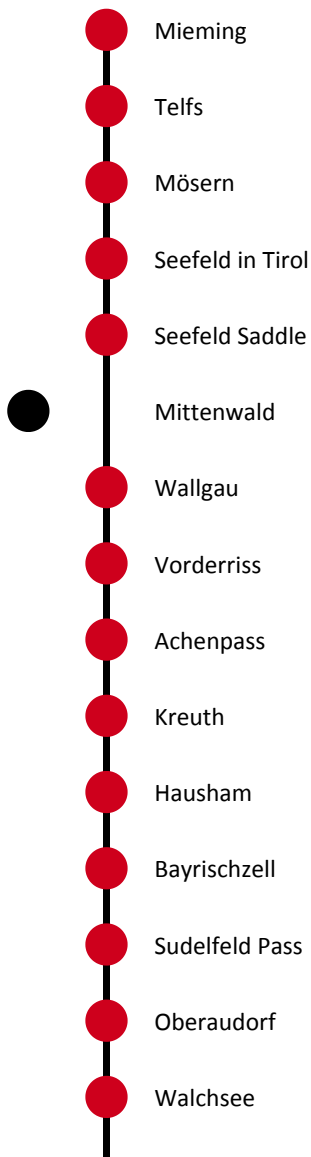


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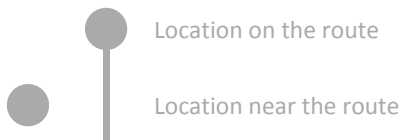
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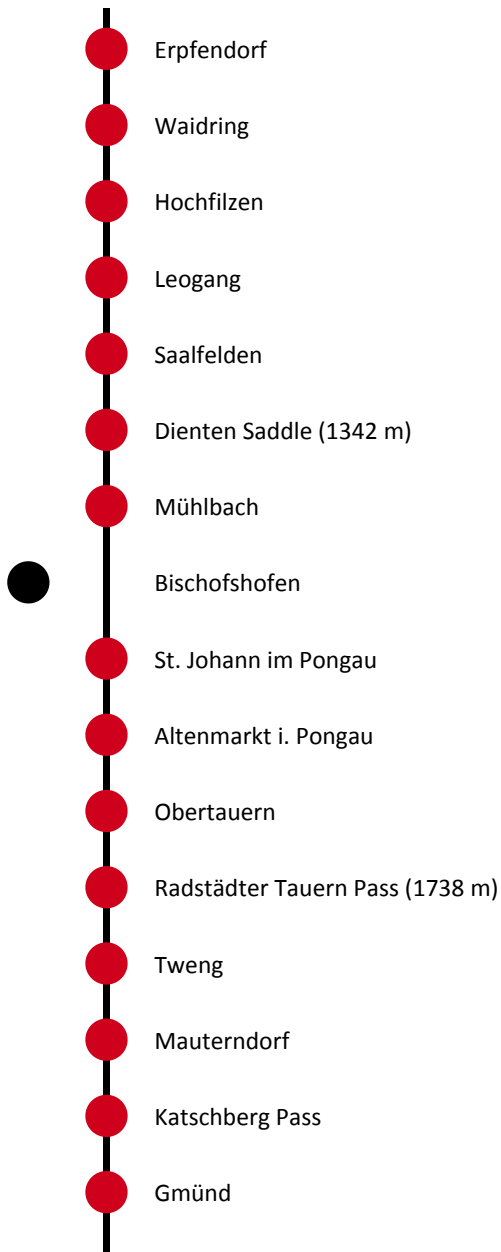
Route



Legend



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)





PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Lake Millstatt

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



RIDING DAY 2 : LAKE MILLSTATT - CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (322 km / 200 miles)

Today you leave the beautiful Carinthian lakes and the tourists behind and discover a region that is completely different. Because of the proximity to the former Iron Curtain, the eastern reaches of Italy and the western end of Slovenia have never been a big tourist attraction. The political situation has changed, but tourism has yet to take off. And so there is still the real Italy to be seen here - with small roads, old villages and lots of nature! In the afternoon this will change again, then you will reach the Dolomites and they are a real tourist magnet. And rightly so - the magnificent Tre Cime di Lavaredo, the picturesque Lake Misurina and then Cortina d'Ampezzo, the famous ski and vacation resort of the rich and famous, are truly fantastic. The Olympic resort of 1956 is a beautiful town surrounded by breathtaking scenery!



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Millstatt - Cortina

Morning coffee: on Nassfeld Pass (WP Nassfeld Pass) there is a mountain apres-ski right after the border with Italy and also a restaurant/café (WP Gallo Forcello, Pramollo) +39 0428 991291).

Lunch: Sappada is a good place to stop, Baita Mondschein (WP Rest Baita Mondschein), Borgata Bach, 96, 32047 Sappada BL +39 0435 469585) or Baita Pista Nera (WP Baita Pista Nera, Borgata Palù, 98, 32047 Sappada BL +39 0435 469760), just across it.

Afternoon break: Two wonderful afternoon breaks: on Lake Misurina (WP Foto Misurina Lake), several cafes and parking on the western shore or on the northern shore (WP Rest Café Quinz, Lago di Misurina) and in front of the majestic Tre Cime of Lavaredo (Drei Zinnen) at Rifugio Auronzo (WP Rest Rifugio Auronzo, Tre Cime/Drei Zinnen) at 2326 m - 7631 ft. Access via toll road, toll booth just after Lake Misurina (WP toll road Lavaredo): 15 € day pass motorcycle, reduced after 3 pm 10 €.

Photo stops: WP Nassfeldpass, WP Foto Sauris Lake, WP Foto Misurina Lake, WP Foto Tre Cime di Lavaredo/Drei Zinnen, WP Passo Tre Croci

Gas: Several options to fill up along the way: WP Gas Tolmezzo (Eni), WP Gas Villa Santina (Eni) or WP Gas Comeglians (Eni). You can fill up again once you arrive in Cortina, there is an Eni right in the centre (WP Gas Cortina (Eni)).

Dinner: Chic&cosy at Il Viziutto di Cortina (Via Cesare Battisti, 64/A, 32043 Cortina d'Ampezzo, +39 0436 860789), traditional flair in Ristorante Ra Stua (Via Grohmann, 2, 32043 Cortina d'Ampezzo, +39 0436 868341) or a tasty pizza in Pizzeria Il Ponte (Via B. Franchetti, 8, 32043 Cortina d'Ampezzo, +39 0436 867624).

#2: Cadore Valley



Now part of the Province of Belluno, also the Cadore valley was a victim of the battles between Italians and Austrians during World War I. The Val di Cadore is also known as the „valley of the Gelatieri“ (ice cream producers). The majority of the Italian ice cream parlors in Germany are owned by people from here. They emigrated in the 1920ies to Germany to sell ice cream in the summertime and to come

back to the valley for the winter.

#3: Lake Misurina



This lake may be small and shallow, but it is famous for the amazing view that opens up from its northern end. Looking south you can see the rock towers of the Dolomites reflecting in the water's surface. People sometimes compare the picture with Lake Louise in Canada, even though the lake's color is not quite the same.

#4: Tre Cime di Lavaredo (Drei Zinnen)



The highest peak reaches up to 10,000 ft., but as there are two more "Cime", there is something for every skill level, making this a very popular area for mountain climbers. During World War I, the Tre Cime were on the frontline between Austria-Hungary and Italy. There were heavy battles going on in the whole region.

#5: Cortina d'Ampezzo



Cortina d'Ampezzo counts only 6,000 people but it feels big, important and sophisticated. Surrounded by tall mountains Cortina recognized its potential early on and in the late 19th century tourism emerged, quickly becoming the region's most important industry. Today the town welcomes about a quarter of a million tourists a year! In 1956 it hosted the Winter Olympics and the event helped

greatly to build Cortina's Reputation as a famous, fashionable and expensive ski resort. In the 1960s the town lent its name to a car (Ford Cortina) and its career as a film location turned international. More than 100 films were made here, most notably The Pink Panther (with Peter Sellers, 1963), The Great Silence (1968) with Klaus Kinski, For Your Eyes Only (Roger Moore as James Bond, 1981), and Cliffhanger (1993) with Sylvester Stallone.

If you don't get to see any international superstars walking around you can just stroll up and down the pretty pedestrian zone and marvel at the grand old buildings and the stunning surroundings.

Optional Route (234 km / 145 miles)

The ride today crosses the eastern Dolomites, a true marvel of nature. If you prefer to enjoy photo and other stops and some extra time to explore Lake Misurina or the Tre Cime di Lavaredo/Drei Zinnen, then we suggest you follow this shorter route. It is still over 200km of pure alpine fun!

This route crosses the main ridge of the Carnic Alps a bit further west, via Plöckenpass/Passo di Monte Croce Carnico and then includes Monte Zoncolan as a true riding highlight. The way up, the eastern side, is a regular two-lane road, but the way down is single lane all the way, very narrow, with stunning views down to the valley. It's recommended not to be prone to vertigo if traveling on this road!

In Comeglians, optional and regular route join again.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Millstatt - Cortina (short)

Morning coffee: on Plöcken Pass/Monte Croce Carnico there is a restaurant/café (WP Cafe Al Valico).

Lunch: Sappada is a good place to stop, Baita Mondschein (WP Rest Baita Mondschein), Borgata Bach, 96, 32047 Sappada BL +39 0435 469585) or Baita Pista Nera (WP Baita Pista Nera, Borgata Palù, 98, 32047 Sappada BL +39 0435 469760), just across it.

Afternoon break: Two wonderful afternoon breaks: on Lake Misurina (WP Foto Misurina Lake), several cafes and parking on the western shore or on the northern shore (WP Rest Café Quinz, Lago di Misurina) and in front of the majestic Tre Cime of Lavaredo (Drei Zinnen) at Rifugio Auronzo (WP Rest Rifugio Auronzo, Tre Cime/Drei Zinnen) at 2326 m - 7631 ft. Access via toll road, toll booth just after Lake Misurina (WP toll road Lavaredo): 15 € day pass motorcycle, reduced after 3 pm 10 €.

Photo stops: WP Plöckenpass/Monte Croce Carnico, WP Monte Zoncolan, WP Foto Misurina Lake, WP Foto Tre Cime di Lavaredo/Drei Zinnen, WP Passo Tre Croci

Gas: Best option to fill up along the way: WP Gas Comeglians (Eni). You can fill up again once you arrive in Cortina, there is an Eni right in the centre (WP Gas Cortina (Eni)).

Dinner: Chic&cosy at Il Viziutto di Cortina (Via Cesare Battisti, 64/A, 32043 Cortina d'Ampezzo, +39 0436 860789), traditional flair in Ristorante Ra Stua (Via Grohmann, 2, 32043 Cortina d'Ampezzo, +39 0436 868341) or a tasty pizza in Pizzeria Il Ponte (Via B. Franchetti, 8, 32043 Cortina d'Ampezzo, +39 0436 867624)

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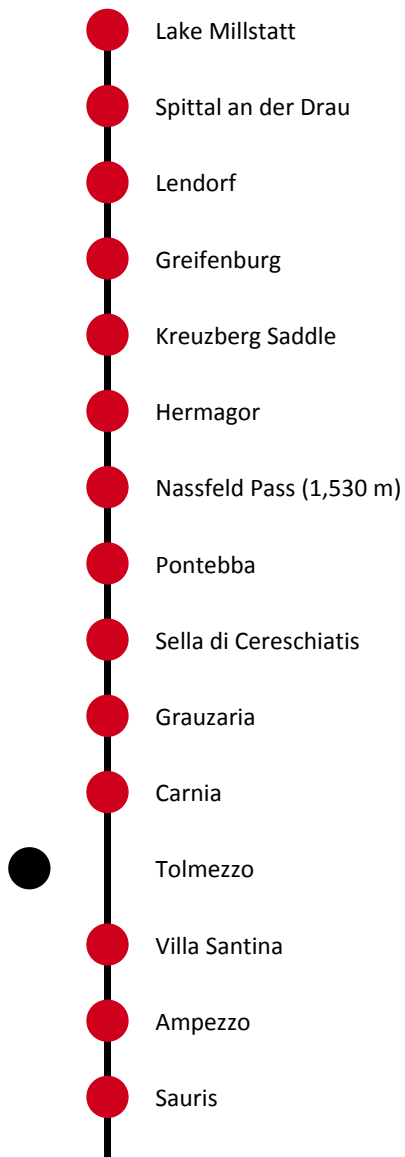
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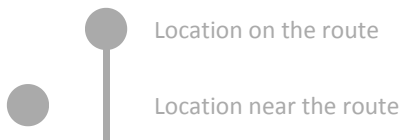
PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



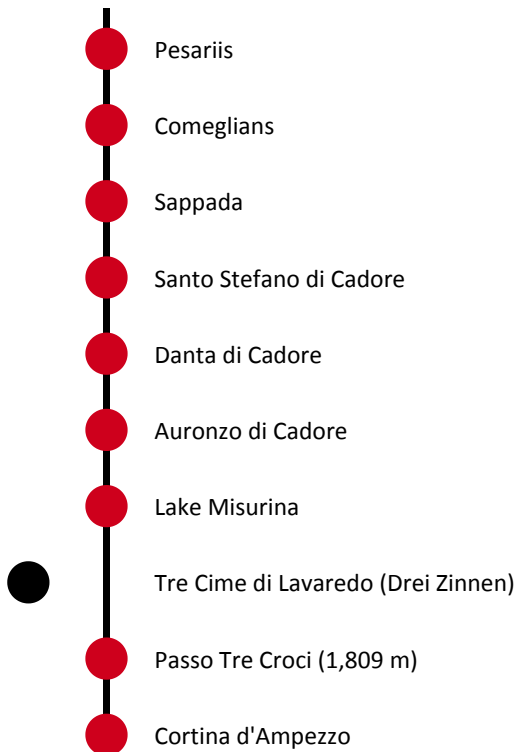
Route



Legend



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



RIDING DAY 3 : CORTINA D'AMPEZZO - BOLZANO (BOZEN)

Standard Route (313 km / 194 miles)

The Dolomites - that is the theme of the day! As soon as you leave Cortina, you are in the heart of spectacular mountains. The route takes you over ten passes - but there are some options for shortcuts.

Right outside of Cortina, the road climbs up one of the most breathtaking panoramas of the Alps: the 360 degrees views from Passo di Giau will surely move your soul. Continuing south you will enter one of the less known areas of the Dolomites, called Cadore. You are in the Veneto region, but the pomp of Venice is still far away from these mountain villages. After Zoldo another pass is on the menu, Passo Duran, followed by Passo Cereda and Passo Rolle. You have entered another region, Trentino.

A marvelous stop at Lake Fedaia will put you in front of the biggest glacier and the tallest mountain of the Dolomites, the Marmolada. If you fancy high elevations and stunning views, take the cablecar to the top. There is a good restaurant up there as well.

In Canazei, it's time for the world-famous "Sella Ronda" which consists of four mountain passes, one on each side of Mt. Sella. Every motorcyclist should do this ride at least once in their lives. Climbing towards the steep wall that seems to be the end of the valley the road suddenly forks. We bear left and take the road to Passo Sella and then to Passo Gardena. On top of the pass, we stop to enjoy the view and scope out the switchbacks that will take us down the other side towards Corvara. The next pass, Campolongo, is quite unremarkable compared to his higher brothers, but the views of Marmolada are stunning. Pordoi is the highest, longest, and most challenging of the four passes. From the top, you can (and should!) take the funicular that whisks you up to Sas Pordoi in only 4 minutes, covering 700 meters (2,300 ft) of elevation. The Panorama from the top is absolutely mind-bending!

Back in Canazei, you follow the wide and verdant Val di Fiemme until Vigo di Fassa, turning then into the smaller Val d'Ega: there is a gem waiting for you there: hidden in the pine forests there is a spectacular emerald lake, Lago di Carezza, which became famous in the legend of King Laurin.

From here Bolzano - the main city of Alto Adige/Südtirol - is not far anymore. Congratulation, you just completed The Great Road of the Dolomites!



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Cortina - Bolzano (Bozen)

Morning coffee: Today there are countless wonderful coffee stops, as nearly every mountain pass has plenty of choices! Some suggestions are: Passo di Giau (WP Passo di Giau), Passo Duran (WP Passo Duran) or Passo Rolle (WP Passo Rolle).

Lunch: An extraordinary lunch experience could be on the Marmolada glacier! Park the bike after the dam of Fedaia Lake (WP P Cable car Marmolada), take the cable car to the top, and enjoy a wonderful view from the restaurant there (WP Rest Rifugio Pian dei Fiacconi), Località Fedaia 31, Canazei TN +39 0462 601412. Alternatively, you can have late lunch at Chalet Gerard on the way to Passo Gardena (WP Rest Chalet Gerard, Plan de Gralba), Plan De Gralba 37, 39048 Selva di Val Gardena BZ +39 0471 795274.

Afternoon break: on Passo Pordoi at Albergo Savoia, Hotel Col di Lana or Snack Bar Giusy (all WP Passo Pordoi) or later on Passo Costalunga at Castel Latemar (WP Rest Castel Latemar, Passo di Costalunga)

Photo stops: There are dozens today! Some of our best spots are WP Passo di Giau, WP Foto Serai di Sottoguda (a deep gorge), WP Sella Joch/Passo Sella, WP Grödner Joch/Passo Gardena, WP Passo di Campolongo, WP Foto Lago di Carezza/Karersee.

Gas: in Alleghe (WP Gas Alleghe (Beyfin)) or in Canazei (WP Gas Canazei (Eni)) and in Bolzano (WP Gas Bolzano/Bozen East (Esso)).

Dinner: Plenty of good options in Bolzano historical center. We can suggest Casa Al Torchio/Torgglhaus (Via Museo, 2, 39100 Bolzano, +39 0471 978109) and Nussbaumer (Via dei Bottai, 11, 39100 Bolzano, +39 0471 053366) both of them offering pizza and also traditional dishes. Call ahead to reserve a table.

#2: Dolomiti Bellunesi (Dolomites of Belluno)



The largest, yet most unknown part of the Dolomites is not in South Tyrol but in the region of Veneto. Getting here from the north on narrow roads and across high passes takes some time, that keeps the crowds at bay and provides us with sheer riding pleasure on the small, twisty roads. Most of the passes around here are not mentioned in any travel book but they put a smile on the face of every rider

who knows his way around: Forcella Staulanza, Passo Duran, Passo Cereda and of course the Rolle with his 40+ switchbacks, just to name a few.

The woods of the mountains of Belluno were well known throughout the Middle Ages for the high quality of their timber; the Venetians used it to build their ships and even Stradivari searched here for the perfect tree for his violins. Today much of the land is protected as a national park and several nature reserves.

#3: 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.

#4: 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!

#5: Passo Gardena (Gardena Pass) (2121 m)



Passo Gardena, or Grödnertal in German, is one of the many beautiful passes in the Dolomites. It reaches an elevation of 2,121 m (6960 ft). The first road across the pass was built in 1915 as a supply route for the frontline in WWI, in 1960 a paved road was built and today the pass is definitively among the Top 10 in the Dolomites. The views from the top are simply amazing!

#6: 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.

#7: 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.

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Optional Route (172 km / 107 miles)

The much shorter optional route skips the big loop around the southern Dolomites and focuses on the main highlights: Passo Giau, Marmolada, Sella Ronda, and Lake Carezza. This leaves more time for excursions by cable car, for walks, and for breaks.

The shortcut would also leave much more time to discover Bolzano. The capital of South Tyrol has a lot to offer, especially the historic center is well worth seeing. You should not miss the Ötzi Museum, where the famous "Iceman" is exhibited and explained.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Cortina - Bolzano (Bozen) (short)

Morning coffee: Today there are countless wonderful coffee stops, as nearly every mountain pass has plenty of choices! Some suggestions are on Passo di Giau (WP Passo di Giau) or Passo Gardena/Grödner Joch (WP Passo Gardena/Grödner Joch).

Lunch: An extraordinary lunch experience could be on the Marmolada glacier! Park the bike after the dam of Fedaia Lake (WP P Cable car Marmolada), take the cable car to the top, and enjoy a wonderful view from the restaurant there (WP Rest Rifugio Pian dei Fiacconi), Località Fedaia 31, Canazei TN +39 0462 601412. Alternatively, you can have late lunch at Chalet Gerard on the way to Passo Gardena (WP Rest Chalet Gerard, Plan de Gralba), Plan De Gralba 37, 39048 Selva di Val Gardena BZ +39 0471 795274.

Afternoon break: on Passo Pordoi at Albergo Savoia, Hotel Col di Lana or Snack Bar Giusy (all WP Passo Pordoi) or later on Passo Costalunga at Castel Latemar (WP Rest Castel Latemar, Passo di Costalunga)

Photo stops: There are dozens today! Some of our best spots are WP Passo di Giau, WP Foto Serai di Sottoguda (a deep gorge), WP Sella Joch/Passo Sella, WP Grödner Joch/Passo Gardena, WP Passo di Campolongo, WP Foto Lago di Carezza/Karersee.

Gas: in Canazei (WP Gas Canazei (Eni)) and in Bolzano (WP Gas Bolzano/Bozen East (Esso)).

Dinner: Plenty of good options in Bolzano historical center. We can suggest Casa Al Torchio/Torgglhaus (Via Museo, 2, 39100 Bolzano, +39 0471 978109) and Nussbaumer (Via dei Bottai, 11, 39100 Bolzano, +39 0471 053366) both of them offering pizza and also traditional dishes. Call ahead to reserve a table.

#2: Dolomiti Bellunesi (Dolomites of Belluno)



The largest, yet most unknown part of the Dolomites is not in South Tyrol but in the region of Veneto. Getting here from the north on narrow roads and across high passes takes some time, that keeps the crowds at bay and provides us with sheer riding pleasure on the small, twisty roads. Most of the passes around here are not mentioned in any travel book but they put a smile on the face of every rider

who knows his way around: Forcella Staulanza, Passo Duran, Passo Cereda and of course the Rolle with his 40+ switchbacks, just to name a few.

The woods of the mountains of Belluno were well known throughout the Middle Ages for the high quality of their timber; the Venetians used it to build their ships and even Stradivari searched here for the perfect tree for his violins. Today much of the land is protected as a national park and several nature reserves.

#3: 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.

#4: 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!

#5: Passo Gardena (Gardena Pass) (2121 m)



Passo Gardena, or Grödnertal in German, is one of the many beautiful passes in the Dolomites. It reaches an elevation of 2,121 m (6960 ft). The first road across the pass was built in 1915 as a supply route for the frontline in WWI, in 1960 a paved road was built and today the pass is definitively among the Top 10 in the Dolomites. The views from the top are simply amazing!

#6: 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.

#7: Bolzano (Bozen)



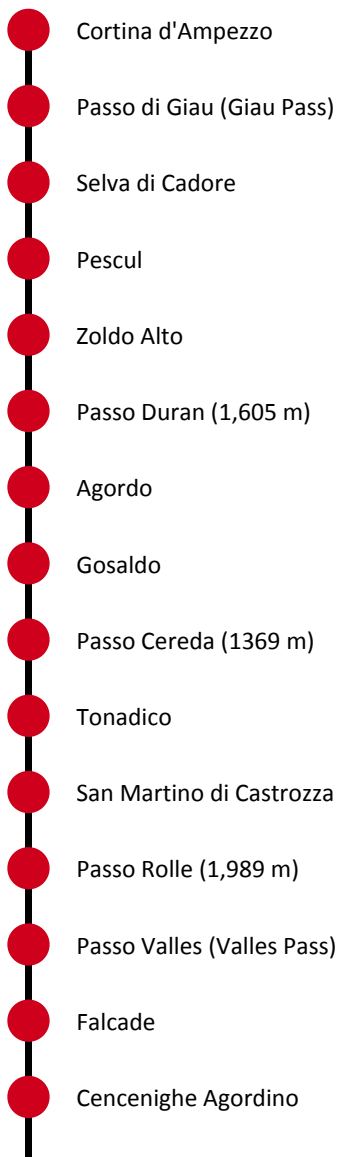
This area was settled by the Romans in 15 BC. General Nero Claudius Drusus, to whom the name of the first settlement in the area refers to, set up this army camp by the River Isarco. The village founded nearby was called Bauzanum. Since its foundation and elevation to a town over 800 years ago, Bolzano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

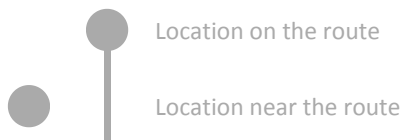
PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



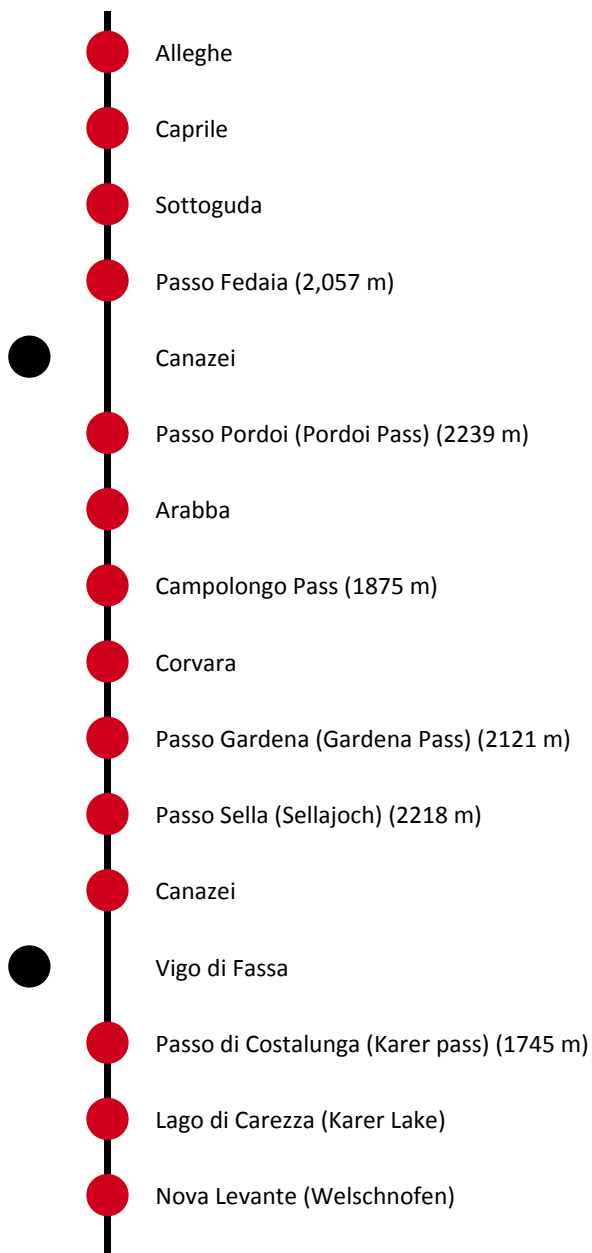
Route



Legend



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)





PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Bolzano (Bozen)



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

RIDING DAY 4 : BOLZANO (BOZEN) - LIENZ

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (311 km / 193 miles)

Today's ride features four mountain passes. From Bolzano you start the morning with the fantastic sweepers of the Renon/Ritten road and after Collalbo/Klobenstein you head north along the Sarentino valley and climb up your first pass, Penserjoch, or Passo di Pennes in Italian. There are only 8 hairpins to navigate, but don't be mistaken, the ride is quite amazing. Once back in the valley, Vipiteno/Sterzing offers you a nice coffee stop possibility. The next town is Brixen, or Bressanone as the Italians call it, an ancient town that features a beautifully restored old center and an imposing cathedral. Take your time, stroll around, have a cappuccino, then head out to some twisties.

The Fues Valley/Villnöß and its Würzjoch/Passo Erbe are stunning. Since this is not a main connection, everything is quieter than on the other passes of the Dolomites. Afterwards you are in Pusteria Valley/Pustertal, the northern edge of the Dolomites. One of the major attractions around here is Lago di Braies/Pragser Wildsee, a tiny lake surrounded by sky-high mountains. Looks like straight out of a postcard!

Through the small Staller Saddle - a one-way road regulated by a traffic light in the valley - you will leave Italy and enter Austria again. The charming town of Lienz will be your home for tonight.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Bolzano (Bozen) - Lienz

Morning coffee: on Passo Pennes (WP Cafe+Photo Penser Joch) or also downtown in Vipiteno (WP P Vipiteno/Sterzing).

Lunch: Restaurant Ütia de Börz, a relaxing spot on Passo Erbe (WP Rest Ütia de Börz/Würzjochhütte, Passo delle Erbe), Via Börz, 26, 39030 San Martino in Badia BZ +39 0474 520066.

Afternoon break: on the tranquil lake Braies (small side trip), Hotel Pragser Wildsee (WP P Lake Braies).

Photo stops: along the Renon road right after leaving Bolzano (WP Foto Bolzano view from Ritten road), at the Ritten Earth Pyramids (WP Foto Erdpyramiden, Ritten), on Passo Pennes (WP Passo di Pennes/Penserjoch), on Passo Furcia (WP Passo Furcia/Furkelpass), at Braies Lake (WP P Lake Braies) and on Staller Saddle (WP Staller Sattel/Passo Stalle).

Gas: in Bressanone (WP Gas Brixen (Esso)) and then in Lienz (WP Gas Lienz (Esso))

Extra activities: if you are into cultural sights, both Vipiteno and Bressanone have wonderful historical centers.

Dinner: Restaurant-Cafe Adlerstüberl (Andrä Kranz-Gasse 7, 9900 Lienz, +43 4852 625500) near the main square for traditional Austrian food or Pizzeria-Restaurant da Leonardo (Tiroler Str. 30, 9900 Lienz, +43 4852 69944) if you prefer Italian flavours.

#2: 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.

#3: Vipiteno (Sterzing)



Sterzing (Vipiteno) is a historical town from the Middle Ages, with romantic little old streets, some souvenir shops, and several cafes. It is ideal for a little stop if you would like to get some souvenirs.

#4: Bressanone (Brixen)



As the oldest town in South Tyrol Brixen has a rich and eventful history. People have settled in the area for millennia, the Romans held it for over 550 years, but the first time it was mentioned in a historic document was in 828. It was a bishopric from 992 to 1803, the seat of an independent ecclesiastical principate for many centuries, burned down on three occasions, was conquered by the

French and handed back and forth from Austrians to Bavarians to Italians several times. In 1944 world-famous mountaineer Reinhold Messner was born here. Main sight in the very picturesque old town is the cathedral, the most important sacred building in South Tyrol. Its cloister is covered in frescoes dating back to the 15th century. Stunning!

#5: Passo delle Erbe (Würzjoch) (1994 m)



The Würzjoch, or Italian - Passo delle Erbe, is counted among the most narrow passes of the Dolomites and, strange enough, not many motorcyclists find their way over this winding road through the colourful mix of green alpine meadows and steep rugged rocks. At some points on Passo delle Erbe you will be so close to the mountains that you think you just need to reach out to touch them.

#6: Lago di Braies



The origin of Lake Braies - "Pragser Wildsee" in German, "Lago di Braies" in Italian - is referable to a reservoir dam, consequence of a mudflow. It is situated at almost 1,500 m a.s.l. in the beautiful Valle di Braies, a side valley of the Val Pusteria valley. In the mythological world, Lake Braies has got an important role to play. According to legends, at the south end of the lake, where Mt. Croda del Becco (2,810 m a.s.l.) is situated, there was the gate to the Fanes

underworld. That gate could be reached only with a boat ride. This is also why the Ladin name of the Croda del Becco is "Sass dla Porta", which means "Gate Mountain".

The emerald green lake has become famous in the last years by the Italian television series "Un Passo dal Cielo" (One step from heaven) and is nowadays a centre of tourism. In order to protect nature in the Fanes-Senes-Braies Nature Park and due to traffic jams, in high summer the street from the locality of Ferrara to the lake is closed from 10.00 am to 3 pm. A bus, as well as a shuttle service starting from Monguelfo, will take you to Lake Braies. (www.suedtirolerland.it)

#7: Staller Sattel (Staller Saddle) (2052 m)



The Staller Saddle (Italian: Passo Stalle) is one of these fantastic connecting roads between South Tyrol in Italy and East Tyrol in Austria. Starting in the valley of Antholz, it ends up in the valley of Deferegggen. Its highest point at 2,052 m (6,730 ft) can be reached via a very narrow, twisty road from Italy. What is so special about it? Finally, you don't need to worry about oncoming traffic on this road section. Because of the limited width of the road, this

single-lane section is ruled by a traffic light, and is also prohibited for trailers and caravans.

Optional Route (226 km / 140 miles)

The shorter route skips the first big pass, the Penserjoch, but it doesn't skip the great curves up to the Ritten. Then you ride directly into the Vlnöbstal and over the Würzjoch and the Furkelpass down into the Pustertal, where you have plenty of time to be enchanted by the fantastically beautiful Pragser Wildsee. The way over the Staller Sattel and into Lienz is then the same as on the standard route. Only you might get there a little earlier, which is not bad, because Lienz has a really pretty, old center.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Bolzano (Bozen) - Lienz (short)

Morning coffee: in Barbian/Barbiano (WP Cafe Gasthof Lamm, Barbian).

Lunch: Restaurant Ütia de Börz, a relaxing spot on Passo Erbe (WP Rest Ütia de Börz/Würzjochhütte, Passo delle Erbe), Via Börz, 26, 39030 San Martino in Badia BZ +39 0474 520066.

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Gas: in Lienz (WP Gas Lienz (Esso))

Extra activities: if you are into cultural sights, Bressanone has a wonderful historical center.

Dinner: Restaurant-Cafe Adlerstüberl (Andrä Kranz-Gasse 7, 9900 Lienz, +43 4852 625500) near the main square for traditional Austrian food or Pizzeria-Restaurant da Leonardo (Tiroler Str. 30, 9900 Lienz, +43 4852 69944) if you prefer Italian flavours.

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PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

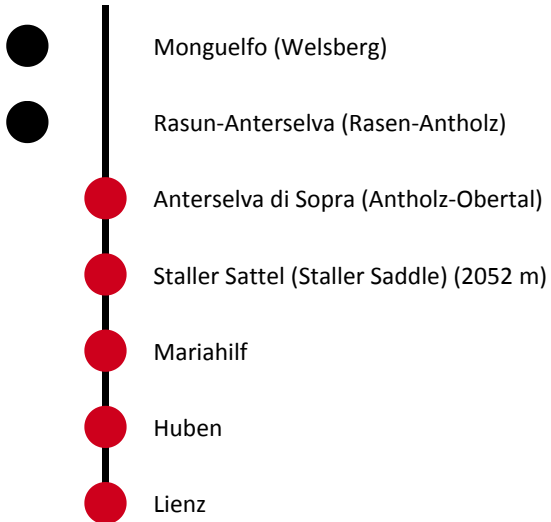


Route

Legend



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)





PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

RIDING DAY 5 : LIENZ - MIEMING

PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (351 km / 218 miles)

The final riding day has arrived - but what a day it is! After a few kilometers, you will reach the Grossglockner region. The road climbs up towards Austria's highest mountain pass. You should plan to spend a little bit of time up here: you can see many mountains towering up to more than 10000 feet, a slowly retreating glacier and if you are lucky, a few marmots. The road was built between 1930 and 1935 by more than 3,000 workers, and it leads you up to an elevation of 8,218 ft.

Side trips: The Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Höhe allows us to look at the longest glacier of the eastern Alps. The Edelweiss Spitze represents the absolute highest point of the road (8,455 ft.). Both side trips are highly recommended.

On the other side, in the Pinzgau Valley, you turn left and after a while, you arrive at the Krimml Waterfalls, which at 385 m are among the highest in Europe. Afterwards you reach the Zillertal via the Gerlos Pass, which is smooth to ride and unfortunately also subject to tolls. Here you could take a detour on the narrow and scenic Zillertal Höhenstraße, but be careful, it's easy to spend a lot of time here. And there are still a few kilometers on your agenda today!

After you have passed the Inntal Autobahn, the road leads you in long curves up to the Achensee, one of the most beautiful lakes in Tyrol. A few more photos and a coffee break, then it's time to cross over into Bavaria one more time. A small road brings you to Walchensee, where you can say a proper goodbye to the Alps because the view across the lake to the mountains is truly a dream!

Then it's past Mittenwald and through the Leutasch Gorge back to Mieming, where this incredible tour started just a week ago!



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Lienz - Mieming

Morning coffee: on the Großglockner Road (toll 25,50 €), at the Kaiser Franz-Josefs-Höhe (WP P Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe) or at the Edelweißhütte on the Edelweißspitze (WP Edelweisspitze).

Lunch: in Gerlos, Jägerstüberl (WP Rest Jägerstüberl Gerlos), Gerlos 217, 6281 Gerlos, +43 5284 5457.

Afternoon break: on the Walchensee at the Seehotel Einsiedl (WP Rest Seehotel Einsiedl) or downtown in Wallgau (WP Rest Post Wallgau).

Photo stops: at the waterfall "Jungfernsprung" before Heiligenblut (WP Foto Waterfall Heiligenblut), along the Großglockner Road and especially at the WP Edelweißspitze. An imposing waterfall is Krimml (WP P Krimml), also nice cafes nearby. Great view from higher up at WP "Foto Krimml Waterfalls view". Another small stop at WP "Foto Achensee" and before returning to Mieming last stop at the mysterious Leutasch Ghost's Gorge (WP Foto Leutascher Geisterklamm).

Gas: in Gerlos (WP Gas Gerlos (OMV)) and then just before arriving in Mieming (WP Gas Mieming (Diskont)).

Dinner: good restaurants in Mieming are those in the Hotel Neuwirt (Untermieming 20, 6414 Mieming, +43 5264 5203), Gasthof Post (Obermieming 153, 6414 Mieming, +43 5264 4013) and Kaysers Tirolresort (Rollerweg 334, 6414, +43 5264 5667).

#2: Grossglockner



The Großglockner is Austria's highest mountain, reaching up to 3798 m/12461 ft. You will be impressed by the scenery of peaks, glaciers and waterfalls. The first successful ascent was made in 1800.

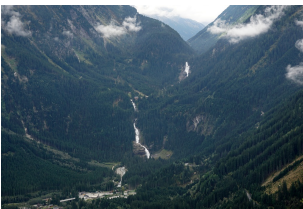
#3: Grossglockner High Alpine Road



The Großglockner High Alpine Road takes us to the very heart of the Hohe Tauern National Park, the largest national park in the European Alps. It was built during an economic crisis in only five years (1930-1935) by more than 3,000 workers. It is said to be a masterpiece of road construction. Crossing zones of climate and vegetation equivalent to those lying between Austria and the Arctic

Circle, we find an incredible variety of plants and animals. At the peak of this toll road, we become part of the 1.2 million visitors per year. You will be impressed by the scenery of peaks, glaciers, and waterfalls.

#4: Krimml Waterfalls



With a drop of 1,247 ft., the "Krimml Waterfalls" are the highest waterfalls in Europe and the fifth highest in the world. Especially nice for us is the fact that they can be seen from the road, so we can leave our hiking boots at home. The amount of water plunging down in three stages is about 5 million gallons per hour! After the falls, the river joins the Salzach, which flows to the Inn, then into the River

Danube and finally to the Black Sea.

#5: Gerlos Pass (1531 m)



The Gerlos Pass connects the Zillertal Valley in Tyrol with the Pinzgau region of Salzburg over a distance of just under 55 km. The east ramp is a narrow, bumpy little track, but there is an alternative: the Gerlos Alpine Road. With its long curves, it offers you the ultimate in riding fun! We reach the highest point on this route at 1628 m, while the actual pass is only 1531 m high.

#6: Walchensee



This beautiful lake is perfect for swimming, sailing, diving, and wind- and kite surfing. For hikers in the surrounding mountains it serves as a stunning backdrop and motorcyclists love the views from the roads along the shoreline and the many opportunities for a coffee break. The (natural) lake also serves as a reservoir for a hydroelectric power plant built in 1924. With a power output of 300 MWh it is still one of the biggest of its kind in Germany.

Optional Route (305 km / 189 miles)

If you have spent too much time on the Großglockner or the Zillertaler Höhenstraße, you can easily shorten the journey at the end of the day. In Wiesing, simply take the A12 freeway towards Innsbruck, it will take you directly to Mieming in just under an hour. Of course you can also visit Innsbruck and take a look at the beautiful historical center of the Tyrolean capital. The old salt town of Hall i. Tirol is also worth a detour.

Please don't forget that you need a toll sticker to use the Austrian motorway. You can get it at any gas station; choose the one that is valid for 10 days, it costs around 5-6 Euros.



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Lienz - Mieming (short)

Morning coffee: on the Großglockner Road (toll 25,50 €), at the Kaiser Franz-Josefs-Höhe (WP P Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe) or at the Edelweißhütte on the Edelweißspitze (WP Edelweisspitze).

Lunch: in Gerlos, Jägerstüberl (WP Gerlos Jägerstüberl), Gerlos 217, 6281 Gerlos, +43 5284 5457.

Afternoon break: in Wiesing at the "WP Rest Panorama Kanzelkehre".

Photo stops: at the waterfall "Jungfernsprung" before Heiligenblut (WP Foto Waterfall Heiligenblut), along the Großglockner Road and especially at the WP Edelweißspitze. An imposing waterfall is Krimml (WP Krimmler Waterfall), also nice cafes nearby.

Gas: in Gerlos (WP Gas Gerlos (OMV)) and then just before arriving in Mieming (WP Gas Mieming (Diskont)).

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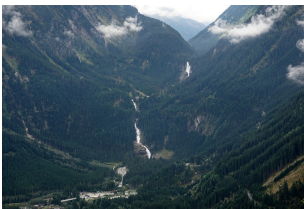
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The Gerlos Pass connects the Zillertal Valley in Tyrol with the Pinzgau region of Salzburg over a distance of just under 55 km. The east ramp is a narrow, bumpy little track, but there is an alternative: the Gerlos Alpine Road. With its long curves, it offers you the ultimate in riding fun! We reach the highest point on this route at 1628 m, while the actual pass is only 1531 m high.

#6: Innsbruck



In 1180, the town in the center of the Alps derived this name from its position by a bridge over the River Inn ("Inn" = name of the river flowing by, "bruck" = old German word for bridge). Remnants show that Romans had been here about 15 BC. At this time, Innsbruck was one of the major transport centers from Germany in the north to Italy in the south. In medieval Tyrol, its capital Innsbruck, played an important role in Europe's history. The "Golden Roof" and

the houses of the very attractive historic center are witnesses of this era. Over the last several decades, Innsbruck gained fame by hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 1964 and 1976.

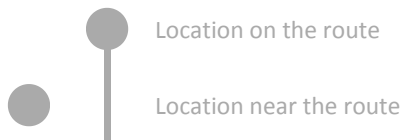
PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



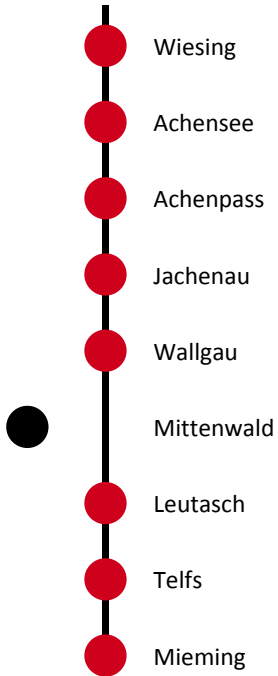
Route




Legend



PRECIOUS DOLOMITES (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



A man with a beard, seen from behind, is sitting on a large, dark rock in a vast, arid desert landscape. He is wearing a dark vest with the 'EDELWEISS' logo and a motorcycle icon. The background shows rolling sand dunes and distant mountains under a warm, orange-hued sky at sunset or sunrise.

We wish you a wonderful tour.

**Worldwide the #1 in
guided motorcycle tours.**



**EDELWEISS BIKE TRAVEL // Sportplatzweg 14, 6414 Mieming, Austria
Tel.: +43 5264 5690 // Fax: +43 5264 5690 3
facebook.com/edelweissbicycletours // info@edelweissbicycle.com
www.edelweissbicycle.com**