



SELF-GUIDED
EDELWEISS TOURS

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)

” Passo dello Stelvio- Europe’s most prestigious pass “

www.edelweissbike.com

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



RIDING DAY 1 : MIEMING - SCHRUNS

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (263 km / 163 miles)

Mieming is the perfect starting point for your tour because it is already in the middle of the Alps! To warm you up, we have five beautiful passes in store for you today, two of which can definitely be considered high alpine.

After just half an hour of driving, you'll be heading up to Hahntennjoch, on a narrow road high above a gorge. On the other side, the Lechtal awaits, which you leave again shortly afterward via the Gaichtpass. The next pass, the Oberjoch, marks the border to Bavaria. On the following Riedbergpass, the highest motorable mountain pass in all of Germany, a beautiful mountain hut awaits you for a wonderful lunch.

The last pass for today, the Furkajoch, is accessed by a narrow road, often it is only one lane, so you should take it easy here. From the top of the pass, you can already see down into the Rhine valley.

A few small roads and tight curves later you reach Bludenz and only minutes later enter the Montafon, a long valley that will lead you to the Silvretta the next day. Today, however, you only go as far as Schruns, the main town of the valley.

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Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Mieming - Schruns

Morning coffee: at Gaicht Pass Stube (WP Gaicht Pass).

Lunch: on Riedberg Pass in the restaurant Berggasthütte Grasgehren (WP Rest Berggasthütte Grasgehren), Riedbergpass 1, 87538 Obermaiselstein, +49 8326 7773.

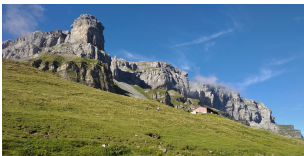
Afternoon break: on Furkajoch (WP Cafe Furkajoch).

Photo stops: on every mountain pass, today you have 5 of them.

Gas: in Schruns (WP Gas Schruns (Shell))

Dinner: Gasthaus Kreuz (Kirchpl. 18, 6780 Schruns, +43 5556 72117) or Litz-Stöbli (Außerlitzstraße 1, 6780 Schruns, +43 5556 742900).

#2: Hahntennjoch (1894m)



The Hahntennjoch, well known among motorcyclists, is still an important connecting road between the Upper Inn Valley and the neighboring Tyrolean Lech Valley. The winding and narrow road stretches over 29 kilometers with a gradient of almost 20% and can only be used from May to

October. It reaches its highest point at 1894 meters. Beware, there are often police checks here!

#3: Riedberg Pass (1407m)



The Riedberg Pass is the highest "real" pass in Germany open to motorized traffic. Built in 1961, the road is well built, but still quite curvy and up to 16% steep. However, real hairpin curves are rare, in fact there is only one. Nevertheless, the pass is very nice to ride.

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#4: Furkajoch (1737 m)



The road across the Furkajoch is only of local importance when it comes to commercial traffic. But it is very important for every serious motorcyclist! Twisty and narrow, yet well maintained it offers a lot of challenges to the rider – and breathtaking scenery in addition. Watch out for oncoming traffic in the one-lane sections!

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Optional Route (193 km / 120 miles)

This route is about 70 km shorter than the other one and doesn't lead you to Bavaria. Of the five passes, only two remain, but these are the highest and most interesting ones, namely the Hahntenn- and the Furkajoch.

The upper Lechtal is known for its woodcarvers, a short stop is recommended. Mostly religious motifs are carved, but you may also find a small Tyrolean eagle. A nice souvenir!

The mountain village of Warth is already in Vorarlberg, the westernmost federal state of Austria. Not far from here, in Zürs, the Austrian ski circus began about 100 years ago. Shortly behind Warth, on the Hochtannberg Pass, is the European watershed between the Lech (Danube, Black Sea) and the Bregenzer Ache (Rhine, North Sea). The curve built on stilts on the western side of the pass is a very popular photo spot! In Au, you turn left towards Furkajoch and find yourself back on the "normal" route.

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Highlights:

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

Morning coffee: on Hahntennjoch (WP Hahntennjoch) or later in Elmen (WP Cafe Treibholz, Elmen).

Lunch: in Warth in Äpler Stuba, typical Tyrolean cuisine (Warth 22, 6767 Warth, +43 5583 30815) WP "Rest Äpler Stuba, Warth"

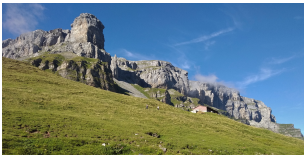
Afternoon break: on Furkajoch (WP Cafe Furkajoch).

Photo stops: on every mountain pass; there are 3 on this route

Gas: in Schruns (WP Gas Schruns (Shell))

Dinner: Gasthaus Kreuz (Kirchpl. 18, 6780 Schruns, +43 5556 72117) or Litz-Stöbli (Außerlitzstraße 1, 6780 Schruns, +43 5556 742900).

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October. It reaches its highest point at 1894 meters. Beware, there are often police checks here!

#3: Hochtannberg Pass (1660 m)



This pass marks the watershed between the two major European rivers - the Rhine and the Danube. Used as a trade route from the 15th century, it has only been converted into a road for motor vehicles in 1954. The modern road offers great riding and allows for spectacular views of the Austrian Alps.

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#4: Furkajoch (1737 m)

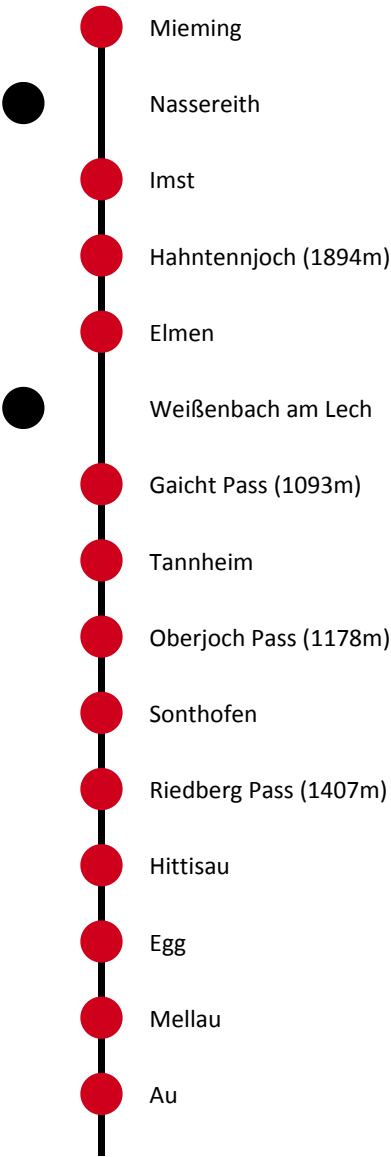


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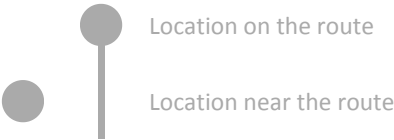
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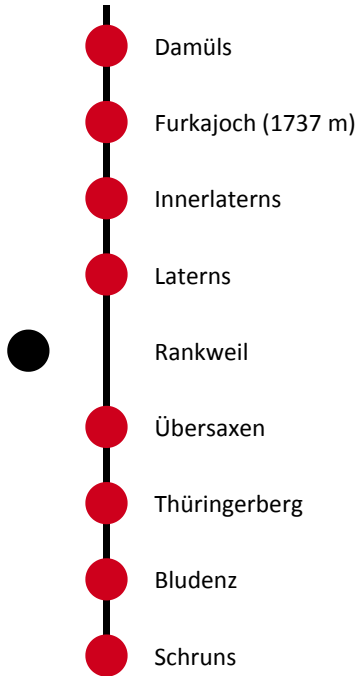
Route



Legend



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RIDING DAY 2 : SCHRUNS - ST. MORITZ

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Standard Route (250 km / 155 miles)

Today your ride starts with a true highlight: the Silvretta High Alpine Road leads you up to the Bielerhöhe, a pass that connects the Montafon in Vorarlberg with the Paznaun Valley in Tyrol. After all, 32 hairpin bends provide plenty of riding fun, and when you reach the top, the best way to enjoy the view over the reservoir to the mountains beyond is to have a coffee or even a second breakfast. In Galtür, at the eastern end of the Silvretta Road, the Alpinarium commemorates the devastating snow avalanche of 1999 and is well worth a visit.

At the end of the Paznaun valley, you follow tiny roads over to the Inn valley, which you can best see from above, namely from the viewpoint "Gacher Blick". Afterward, you will take the well-maintained federal road along the Inn River in the direction of the state border. Shortly before the big bridge over the Inn, turn right in the direction of Switzerland. Through a deeply cut gorge, you reach the village of Martina, where the border station is located.

Now just follow the Inn, which has also given its name to this valley, the Engadin. Here the people speak a Rhaeto-Romanic dialect that no one else understands. So don't be surprised by the strange place names on the signposts. Zernez is a typical Engadine village, here you can have a nice lunch. But you can also wait until Livigno and enjoy the Italian cuisine there.

You reach the Italian customs exclusion area Livigno through a tunnel, which is only one lane and therefore regulated by a traffic light system. It costs about 13 CHF toll. But you can easily recoup the money if you fill up your tank or do your shopping in Livigno, because thanks to the tax exemption already introduced by Napoleon, you can buy alcohol, tobacco, perfume and much more here very cheaply. Gasoline costs only half as much as in Switzerland!

You leave Livigno in a southern direction and reach the Bernina Pass, from where beautiful views of the snow-covered Swiss 4000m peaks open up. Follow the road down past Pontresina and you'll soon be in Sankt Moritz, the winter sports destination of the rich and famous.

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Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Schruns - St. Moritz

Morning coffee: at the Panorama Stop Gacher Blick (WP Foto Gacher Blick).

Lunch: either in Zernez in Switzerland (WP Cafe Spöl, Zernez), Plaz 119, 7530 Zernez, +41 81 856 12 79) or later on in Italy in Livigno, lots of Restaurants in Plan street, Concordia is very good (WP Rest Concordia), Via Plan, 114/B, 23030 Livigno, +39 0342 990200).

Afternoon break: at the Bernina Glacier (WP Bernina Pass).

Photo stops: Silvretta reservoir (WP Foto Silvretta High Alpine Road), Gacher Blick (WP Foto Gacher Blick) and in Livigno (WP Foto Livigno Lake).

Gas: in Livigno is inexpensive (WP Gas Livigno (Q8)) or later in St. Moritz (WP Gas St. Moritz (Self Service))

Extra activities: take a stroll in Livigno if you would like to do duty-free shopping.

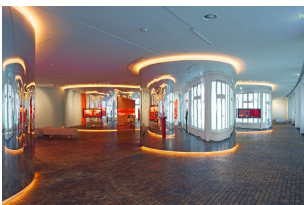
Dinner: Dal Mulin (Piazza dal Mulin 4, 7500 St. Moritz, +41 81 833 33 66) for creative cuisine or Chesa Veglia (Via Veglia 2, 7500 St. Moritz, +41 81 837 28 00), nice atmosphere and typical Swiss cuisine.

#2: Silvretta High Alpine Road



14 miles long, one of the most beautiful alpine roads in the Austrian Alps, 32 switchbacks on the western ramp, a turquoise artificial lake on top, a place to sit in the sun, drink coffee and enjoy the views, what else could you ask for? It's a toll road, but this awesome ride is well worth the money.

#3: Galtür



The little village of Galtür in Paznaun Valley is well known for a tragic reason - the Galtür Avalanche. It occurred on February 23, 1999. The avalanche killed 31 people and is considered the worst Alpine avalanche in 40 years. We can visit the Alpinarium in Galtür which was founded after the avalanche disaster. It's an integral part of an avalanche protection wall measuring 1,130 ft. in length and 62 ft. in

height. The combination of a wall of protection and an exhibition site make the Alpinarium and its architecture unique.

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#4: 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.)

#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.

#6: 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.

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Optional Route (212 km / 132 miles)

If you want to get to St. Moritz earlier to indulge in fashion shopping in the afternoon or do something else (hiking, windsurfing, etc.), just follow this shorter route. It doesn't turn off in Zernez but stays in the Engadine.

In and around St. Moritz nobody needs to be bored, there is a lot to experience. Take the cable car to the Diavolezza and enjoy the breathtaking panorama of the surrounding 3- and 4,000-meter peaks, or relax in one of the mineral springs that were already known to the Romans. You can also let yourself be flown around by helicopter or just walk along the lakeshore enjoying the view and the eternal sunshine. St. Moritz is the cradle of tourism in Switzerland, and there is a reason for that.

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Highlights:

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Morning coffee: at the Panorama Stop Gacher Blick (WP Foto Gacher Blick).

Lunch: in Zernez in Switzerland (WP Cafe Spöl, Zernez), Plaz 119, 7530 Zernez, +41 81 856 12 79).

Afternoon break: downtown St. Moritz.

Photo stops: Silvretta reservoir (WP Foto Silvretta High Alpine Road), Gacher Blick (WP Gacher Blick).

Gas: in St. Moritz (WP Gas St. Moritz (Self Service)).

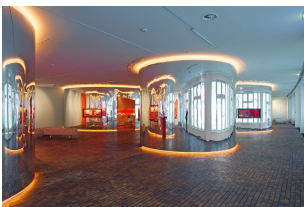
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#4: Gacher Blick



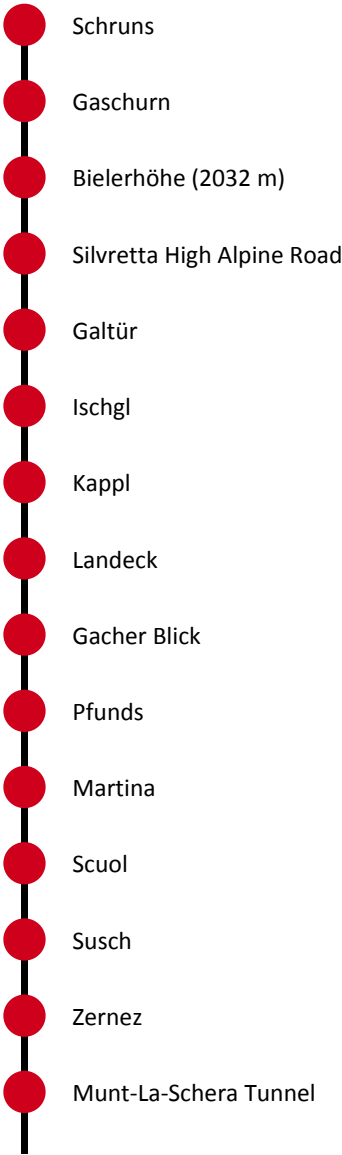
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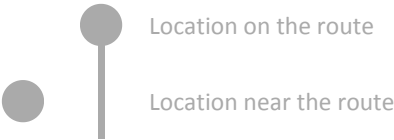
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Route



Legend



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RIDING DAY 3 : ST. MORITZ - SONDRIO

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Standard Route (318 km / 198 miles)

Your morning starts with a beautiful pass, the Julier, which is the most important connection between the Engadine and Central Switzerland. At the top of the pass or at the reservoir a little further north, it's nice to have coffee, but don't waste too much time, because there is still a lot to see and ride today.

The Viamala is the most famous gorge in Switzerland, it is deep and very narrow and extremely impressive. It's worth taking the long staircase all the way down!

After that, another pass is on the agenda, the Splügen Pass, which takes you over to Italy. It offers countless narrow hairpin bends, some of which are built into the rock, and a lake at the top of the pass in which the surrounding mountain peaks are reflected. Here we recommend to sit in the sun and have lunch.

Passing Chiavenna, you'll next reach the northern end of Lake Como, blessed with a Mediterranean climate. Everything here screams "Dolce Vita", you'll hardly (want to) avoid a Caffè or a Gelato on the lakeside.

Lake Como, also called Lario by the locals, is home to the legendary Italian motorcycle brand Moto Guzzi. There's also a museum at the company's headquarters, but unfortunately, it's only open from 3 to 4 p.m., and only on weekdays. If you can make it in time, you should definitely check it out!

After that, you'll ride a tiny road over the San Marco Pass in Valtellina, a long, wide valley that runs from east to west and is a major traffic artery. In the main town of Sondrio, you will find your accommodation.

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Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: St. Moritz - Sondrio

Morning coffee: on Julier Pass (WP Cafe+WC Julierpass).

Lunch: after Splügen Pass by the lake Montespluga, La Capriata (WP WP Rest La Capriata, Montespluga), Via Ferrè, 3, 23024 Madesimo, +39 0343 56046).

Afternoon break: Moto Guzzi Museum (WP Museo Moto Guzzi) in Mandello del Lario.

Photo stops: at the lake Marmorera (WP Foto Marmorera Stausee) and at the gorge Viamala (WP Foto Viamala gorge) and later on along the charming Lake Como (WP "P Colico").

Gas: fill up twice, for example in Colico on Como Lake (WP Gas Colico (Esso)) and in Sondrio (WP Gas Sondrio (Eni)).

Dinner: Trattoria Olmo in the town center (Piazza Cavour, 23100 Sondrio, +39 0342 212210) or something very special in a small old "tower" Ristorante Torre Della Sassella (Località Sassella, 17, 23100 Sondrio, +39 0342 218500).

#2: Lake Silvaplana



Lake Silvaplana is a paradise for kite surfers. The Maloja winds that regularly occur, mostly in the afternoon, are strong enough to provide a lot of fun. The lake is also a paradise for photographers, especially in combination with the surrounding mountains. Also, the nearby Silsersee, the largest lake in Graubünden, offers countless photo opportunities - and even a boat service, which is the highest shipping line in Europe.

#3: Julier Pass (2284 m)



The Julier Pass (German: Julierpass, Romansh: Pass dal Güglia, Italian Passo del Giulia) (el. 2,284 m, 7493 ft) in the Albula Range of the Alps connects the Engadin valley with the rest of Graubünden. At its summit, the pass crosses the watershed between the basins of the Rivers Rhine and Danube. The Julier Pass lies between Piz Lagrev and Piz Julier. Remains of a Roman temple and cart tracks were

found and illustrate its importance in Roman times.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#4: Viamala / Roffla Gorge



Descending from Splügenpass, stay on the old road following the River Rhine. Here it is a small, but very powerful creek, not too far from its source. The Via Mala is probably the most famous stretch of the road from the San Bernardino Pass towards Chur. Being divided in two by the small Rongellen Basin, each lane runs through its own separate gorge. The upstream defile, the Via Mala proper,

plunges between formidable escarpments connected by four bridges. Leave your motorcycle by the pavilion at the entrance to the galleries and walk to the Second Bridge. Take position on the old bridge dated back to 1739. It spans the gorge, at the bottom of which gushes the Rhine, 223 ft. below. If you want to get as close as possible to the rushing water, take the 30 minutes walk. This means climbing down 341 steps to the base of the gorge. The galleries of the Roffla Gorge (reachable by walking from the gasthaus with the same name) end under an impressive waterfall, which passes just over the spectator's head.

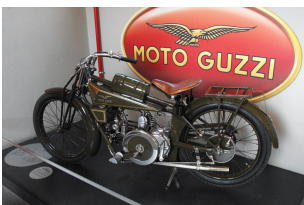
#5: Lago di Como (Lake Como)



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.

#6: Mandello del Lario



"Mandello del Lario", a small place on our route along the Como lake, is the home town of the famous Moto Guzzi motorcycles. If you want you can visit the Moto Guzzi museum.

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Optional Route (191 km / 119 miles)

If you can't tear yourself away from Lake Como and prefer to sunbathe or go for a swim, you can shorten the route. The waterfront of Colico is ideal, there is a small pebble beach and many nice cafes. Afterward, you ride directly into the Valtellina until you reach Sondrio. And if you still want to do some curves, you can ride from the north up to the Passo San Marco and back again. Now that's a relaxing day!

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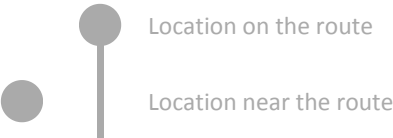
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Route



Legend



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RIDING DAY 4 : SONDRIO - BOLZANO (BOZEN)

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (294 km / 183 miles)

After three days of training, it is about time now: Stelvio day has arrived! The Queen of Alpine roads will challenge you with its 78 hairpin bends and enchant you at the same time!

To warm up, there is another pass to ride before, which is not as well known, but no less spectacular and challenging. Gavia Pass is over 2,600 meters high and is characterized mainly by the narrow road of the south ramp. Cars can only travel past each other at the passing places, which tends to overwhelm many drivers. Therefore, always look as far ahead as possible and stop in time! Lucky, there is not much traffic on this pass.

Back down in the valley, near Bormio, you turn right and follow the road to Stelvio Pass. 39 hairpin bends and several narrow rock tunnels later, you're standing at 2,758 m above sea level, gasping for air, not only because it's so thin up there, but also because there's a lot going on around you. Motorcycles, bicycles, cars, hikers, skiers, everybody is scurrying around. Find a parking spot and head up to the Tibethütte for a view of the spectacular north ramp of the Joch. A highly recommended midday snack is available at Bruno's Würstlstand at the very last house on the left.

The north side of the Stilfserjoch even has 48 hairpin turns. Once you're done with them, you'll surely feel like having an espresso. For that, you should stop in Glurns/Glorenza, the smallest city in Italy. Alternatively (or additionally) you can have a look around Merano; the old spa town offers a relaxed atmosphere and many nice cafes.

From here it's not far to Bolzano, but of course, there are several detours, after all, you came to ride your motorcycle. Gampenjoch and Mendelpass are a lot of fun, a great panorama opens up from the mountain hotel on the Penegal and down at Kalterer See you can even take a swim before you throw yourself into the hustle and bustle of traffic in Bolzano.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Highlights:

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

Morning coffee: on Gavia pass at the Rifugio Bonetta (WP Café Rifugio Bonetta, Gavia).

Lunch: quick sandwich lunch at Bruno's wurststand (WP Bruno Würststand, Stelvio/Stilfserjoch) or the panorama restaurant Tibet (WP Rest Alpengasthof Tibet Hütte, Stelvio), +39 0342 903360).

Afternoon break: coffee in Glorenza/Glurns on the square, Grüner Baum Café (WP Café Grüner Baum, Glorenza/Glurns) or on the terrace bar Gretl am See on the lake Caldaro/Kaltern (WP P Kaltern lake), great ice cream there.

Photo stops: surely on Gavia Pass (WP Gavia Pass) and on Passo Stelvio (WP Passo Stelvio). Lake Caldaro is also beautiful (WP P Kaltern lake).

Extra activities: if you like to visit Merano/Meran then take the highway to Bolzano/Bozen, the planned route might be too long.

Gas: better to fill up twice, after Glorenza/Glurns (WP Gas Lasa (Esso)) and then in Bolzano/Bozen (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: Passo di Gavia (Gavia Pass) (2618 m)



Gavia Pass, 2,618 m (8,589 ft) high and 43 km (27 mi) long, is located in Italy's Lombardy region and divides the province of Sondrio in the north from the province of Brescia in the south. The road over the pass connects Bormio in the northwest with Ponte di Legno in the south and is a single lane for most of its southern section. Gavia Pass is often part of the route of the Giro d'Italia road

bicycle race and is sometimes designated the Cima Coppi, the highest point of the race. Same as Stelvio, this pass is a first-class attraction for European riders!

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#3: 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!

#4: 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.

#5: Merano (Meran)



With its leafy boulevards and the warm and sunny microclimate, Merano feels more Italian than the rest of South Tyrol. The area has been settled for 5,000 years, the Romans came to stay for a few hundred years, and in 857 "Mairania" was first mentioned in a document. The Counts of Tyrol, who had their castle on a nearby hill, elevated Meran to the status of a city in 1317 and made it the capital of their County of Tyrol. But over the centuries, Merano

lost its importance piece by piece and sank into insignificance until its potential as a spa town was discovered in 1836. Prior to WWI, Merano became a popular meeting point for European nobility and welcomed around 1 million guests annually. Today, no visitor to South Tyrol can bypass the classical beauty of Merano. Take a stroll up and down the "Kurpromenade", past the Art Nouveau bathhouse and through the cobblestone alleyways, and enjoy some ice cream or a cappuccino. Or both.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#6: Passo della Mendola (Mendel Pass) (1363 m)



The Mendel Pass, or Passo della Mendola in Italian, is located southwest of Bolzano between the two provinces of South Tyrol and Trentino and has always formed the language border between the German-speaking and Italian-speaking Tyrol. From its highest point at 1,363 m, a small and often dirty cul-de-sac leads to the Penegal (1737 m), from which a breathtaking view opens up over the entire

Adige Valley.

The Mendel Pass is one of the most frequented passes since ancient times. The Tonale road, completed in 1856 for the military, was supplemented by the Mendel Pass in 1879 and opened up South Tyrol as a vacation destination for the high society from Milan and Turin. Today, the Mendel Pass is an absolute highlight among the Alpine passes, especially for motorcyclists.

#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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Optional Route (196 km / 122 miles)

Even if you choose the short route, the biggest highlight of the tour is included: today is Stelvio day. You can reach it directly and thus avoid the narrow Gavia Pass. However, you should not skip Glurns and for Merano, you certainly have enough time due to the shortcut. The charming old spa town exudes the flair of the Habsburg Empire; Empress Sisi often visited here. Afterwards you can take the expressway to Bolzano or ride the last part of the long route to experience the wine-growing area around Appiano and Caldaro.

In case of bad weather, it is advisable to bypass Stelvio in a big circle, because up there it can snow at any time, even in summer. The fastest way to Bolzano is to ride over the Tonale Pass to Cles and then through the Val di Non to the Mendel Pass and down into the Adige Valley.

Bolzano is the capital of South Tyrol and has a lot to offer. The wonderful old town, the surrounding castles, and the Ritten, Bolzano's local mountain, ensure that no one gets bored. You shouldn't miss a visit to Ötzi, the over 5000-year-old Iceman. He has his own museum in the center of Bolzano!

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Highlights:

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

Morning coffee: in Tirano or in Bormio.

Lunch: early lunch with sandwich at Bruno's wurststand (WP Bruno Würststand, Stelvio/Stilfserjoch) or the panorama restaurant Tibet (WP Rest Alpengasthof Tibet Hütte, Stelvio), +39 0342 903360).

Afternoon break: coffee in Glorenza/Glurns on the square (or late lunch), Grüner Baum Café (WP Café Grüner Baum, Glorenza/Glurns).

Photo stops: on Passo Stelvio (WP Passo Stelvio) several possibilities also along the road.

Extra activities: if you like to visit Merano/Meran then take the free highway to Bolzano/Bozen.

Gas: in Bolzano/Bozen (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: Passo dello Stelvio (Stelvio Pass) (2758 m)



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STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



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lost its importance piece by piece and sank into insignificance until its potential as a spa town was discovered in 1836. Prior to WWI, Merano became a popular meeting point for European nobility and welcomed around 1 million guests annually. Today, no visitor to South Tyrol can bypass the classical beauty of Merano. Take a stroll up and down the "Kurpromenade", past the Art Nouveau bathhouse and through the cobblestone alleyways, and enjoy some ice cream or a cappuccino. Or both.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#5: Bolzano (Bozen)



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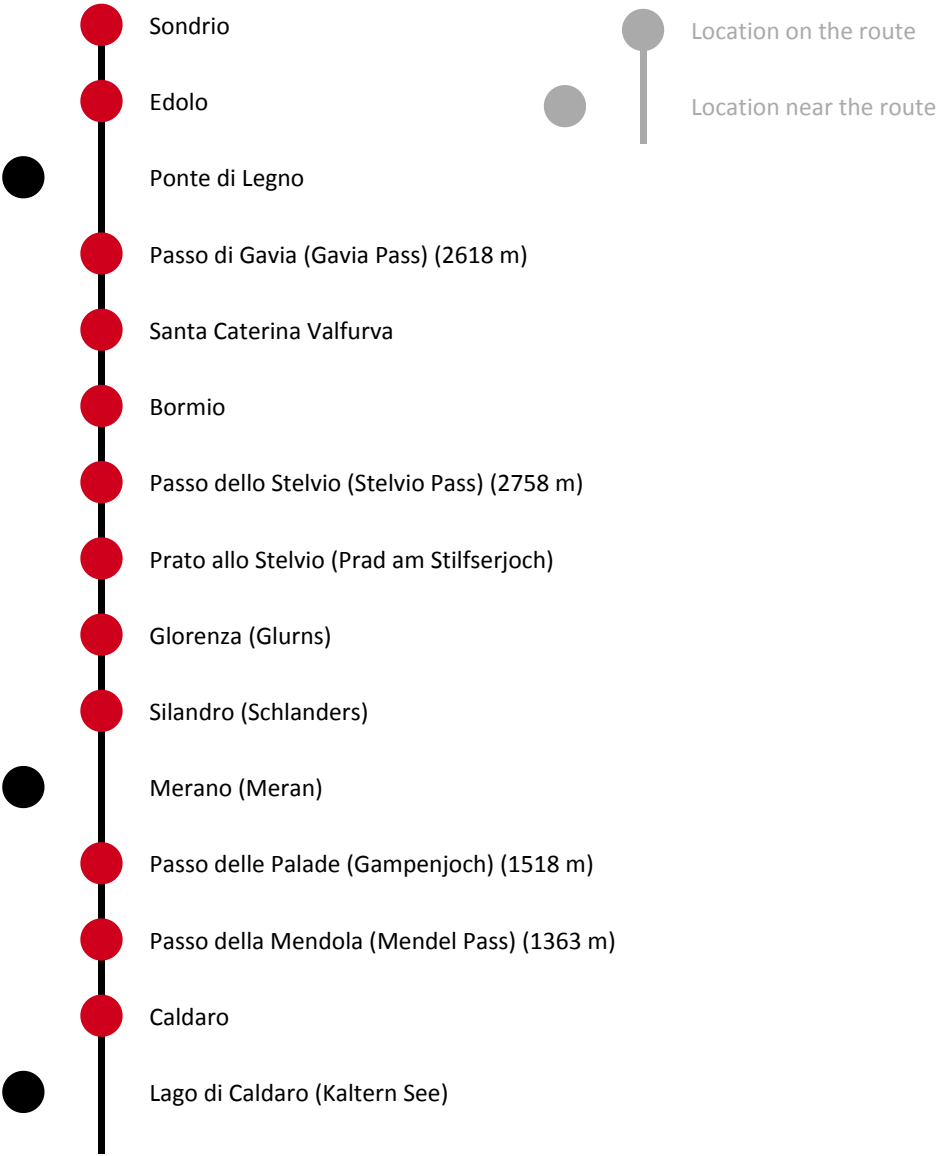
Venice and Augsburg. Four times a year a market was held, and traders came from the south and the north. Therefore, a mercantile magistrate was founded in 1635. Every market season, two Italian and two German officers (appointed from the traders who operated there) worked in this office. The city was 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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Route

Legend



STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Appiano (Eppan)



Bolzano (Bozen)

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



RIDING DAY 5 : BOLZANO (BOZEN) - MIEMING

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Standard Route (254 km / 158 miles)

For the last riding day of this tour, we have prepared a fantastic route across South Tyrol and North Tyrol. The first part is in Italy, the latter in Austria. Alto Adige/Südtirol (or South Tyrol in English) was in fact part of the Habsburg empire until the end of WWI, when it was given to Italy. In the 1920s and 1930s, under Mussolini's fascist regime, the area was "Italianized". Today it's a great mix of Austrian and Italian culture.

You will leave Bolzano/Bozen and head north along the Sarentino/Sarntal to reach your first pass today, Passo Pennes/Penserjoch. On the other side is Vipiteno/Sterzing, a small medieval town perfect for a late morning coffee. The next passes are Passo Giovo/Jaufenpass and Passo Rombo/Timmelsjoch, Austria's highest border crossing. From St. Leonhard all the way up to the pass you will cover about 1,800 m of elevation, one of the longest ascents in the entire Alps! Unfortunately, the world-famous motorcycle museum on the Austrian side of the pass was destroyed by fire in January 2021, more than 200 vintage motorcycles were lost.

The pass leads you down to the Ötztal valley and you follow it all the way to the end. If you feel like collecting one more pass instead of riding directly to Mieming you can take the side road over Kühtai Saddle. Not spectacular, but a nice road to cool down.

Today - and the entire tour - has surely been an unforgettable ride on some of the most incredible roads of the Alps. And you know what? There are many more Alpine roads to be discovered...

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Highlights:

#1: SELF-GUIDED TIPS: Bolzano - Mieming

Morning coffee: on Passo Pennes/Penserjoch (WP Cafe+Photo Penser Joch) or after Passo Giovo at the Sandwirt (WP Sandwirt).

Lunch: at the top of Passo del Rombo is a guesthouse with a nice terrace and great views. (WP Rest Rasthaus Timmelsjoch/Passo del Rombo)

Afternoon break: Have one last apple strudel on the last pass! (WP Café Dorfstadl Kühtai Apfelstrudel).

Photo stops: am Penserjoch (WP Cafe+Photo Penser Joch), am Jaufenpass (WP F Passo Giovo/Jaufenpass) und am Timmelsjoch (WP Passo Rombo/Timmelsjoch, toll road 14 €).

Gas: just before entering Mieming (WP Gas Mieming (Diskont)).

Dinner: good restaurants in Mieming are Gasthaus Stiegl (Untermieming next to the church, phone +4352645280), Gasthof Post (Obermieming 153, 6414 Mieming, +43 5264 4013), and "Greenvieh" (Obermieming next to the golf course, phone +4352645212561).

#2: 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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#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 its 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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Optional Route (156 km / 97 miles)

If you want to leave Bolzano late or arrive in Mieming early, you can follow this route. Up to Sterzing it is identical to the long route, then it leads you over the Brenner Pass straight into the Inn Valley. If you are in a real hurry, you could even take the motorway and be in Mieming in two hours.

Our route, however, runs along the old Brenner federal road and all the way in to Innsbruck. The capital of Tyrol is well worth seeing, you can do some wonderful shopping and take a nice cable car trip up the Nordkette. Mieming is only half an hour away from Innsbruck.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Highlights:

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

Morning coffee: on Passo Pennes/Penserjoch (WP Cafe+Photo Penser Joch).

Lunch: downtown Vipiteno/Sterzing in case you do some sightseeing (P Vipiteno/Sterzing) or later on in Innsbruck downtown (around Maria-Theresien street many restaurants. Park at WP "P Adolf-Pichler-Platz Innsbruck").

Photo stops: am Penserjoch (WP Cafe+Photo Penser Joch), in Vipiteno/Sterzing and in Innsbruck.

Gas: just before entering Mieming (WP Gas Mieming (Diskont)).

Dinner: good restaurants in Mieming are Gasthaus Stiegl (Untermieming next to the church, phone +4352645280), Gasthof Post (Obermieming 153, 6414 Mieming, phone +43 5264 4013), and "Greenvieh" (Obermieming next to the golf course, phone +4352645212561).

#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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



#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: 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.

STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Route


Legend



STELVIO - KING OF THE ALPS (SELF GUIDED TOUR)



Mieming



We wish you a wonderful tour.

Worldwide the #1 in
guided motorcycle tours.



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