

Via Claudia Augusta

From Augsburg to Bolzano in 8 days



About 2000 years ago the adopted son of emperor Augustus, General Drusus realized over his military career the significance of well maintained and quickly passable transport routes from the northern Roman provinces to the Mediterranean. For that reason it was more than necessary to build a pass road to link the northern and southern parts of the empire divided by the Alps. The Via Claudia Augusta, completed within 60 years, is an exemplary sample of Roman construction and a masterpiece of antique engineering. With this road, the Romans had built the first proper mountain road across the Fern Pass and the Reschen Pass.

Nowadays the Via Claudia Augusta enables cyclists to experience a unique and stunning crossing of the Alps and to get to know the most beautiful sides of the former Roman domain. And thanks to organized transfers across the two passes you can do so without too much effort.

The scenic contrasts along the route are almost unsurpassable: South of Augsburg you pedal along the flat Lechfeld towards the massive Alpine range. You cross impressive Tyrolean mountain passes and follow the flow of River Adige to the South Tyrol's capital of Bolzano – the portal to the Mediterranean.

Let's cross the Alps in the footsteps of the Romans!

In a Nutshell / Distinctive Features

Mostly paved cycling paths and rural roads as well as less travelled back roads and village roads; shuttle transfer to conveniently manage the two challenging mountain passes; also for children from the age of 14 (high amount of cycling enthusiasm required).

Bookable as individual single tour, 8 days / 7 nights, approximately 365 kilometres. Dates for guided group tours on request.

Arrival

Every Sunday from 27 May to 16 September 2012

Extra dates are available at no extra cost if group size exceeds 6 people

Programme

Day 1: Individual journey to Augsburg

Visit of the Roman provincial capital "Augusta Vindelicorum".

Day 2: Augsburg – Schongau (about 86 kilometres)

The place name Augsburg derives from the Roman name of the town "Augusta Vindelicorum", which was founded in 15 B.C. under the rule of Emperor Augustus. Augsburg's popularity however, was established with its role as a Fuggerei town. Therefore, a visit of the Fuggerei, which is the world's oldest project for social housing still in use today, is almost a must. Schongau features a picturesque old town and almost completely preserved town wall.

Day 3: Schongau – Reutte: (about 55 kilometres)

Having left the beautiful old town of Schongau the cycling path along River Lech takes you into the Tyrol. Before heading over the border from Germany to Austria the beautiful fairytale-like Neuschwanstein castle awaits you.



Day 4: Reutte – Landeck (about 66 kilometers)

Shortly after Reutte the “Ehrenberger Klause”, a fortress built in the time of the Thirty Years’ War that is well worth seeing can be visited. From Leermoos or Biberwier respectively you can take the VCA-Huckepack shuttle to cover the demanding route up Fern Pass. From Fernstein castle you cycle past Nassereith and through the picturesque Gurgltal Valley to Imst. A “beery” adventure awaits you at the microbrewery at Starkenberg castle. From the town of Imst you will pedal along Inntal Valley to the town of Landeck.

Day 5: Landeck – Mals: (about 60 kilometres)

Today’s route leads from Landeck to Pfunds. From there the shuttle bus takes you up to Nauders. From Nauders a gently ascending cycling path leads up to Reschen Pass, where you cross the Austro-Italian border and at the same time the main Alpine ridge. You cycle downwards towards Mals past Reschenstausee reservoir with the sunken church tower of Altgraun, one of the most famous photo motifs of Italy. Take in the first evening on South Tyrolean soil and enjoy strolling through the old alleyways of the town.

Day 6: Mals – Merano: (about 60 kilometres)

Today we cross the entire Vinschgau. The route leads from an altitude of more than 1,000m down to the town of the Merano that is located at an altitude of 350m. Most of the route follows the course of River Adige. From your starting place this pleasant cycling stretch leads down to the smallest town of the Alps, the town of Glurns. Past the marble town of Laas you get to Naturns and eventually – past the impressive Kastellbell castle – to the spa town of Merano. Enjoy an evening walk through town along the “Passer” promenade surrounded by subtropical flora.

Day 7: Merano – Bolzano: (about 40 kilometres)

The final stage takes you from Merano to Bolzano through the Adige Valley. There are a number of amazing sites along the way: Niederlana’s famous Schnatterbeckaltar, the largest Gothic wing altar in the Alpine area, the highest church tower of the South Tyrol in Terlan and a great number of fortresses and ruins on both valley slopes. Besides its cultural richness the region offers all sorts of culinary delights: fresh asparagus in Terlan, tasty chestnuts in Nals and excellent regional wines. Having arrived in Bolzano you can enjoy the wonderful southern flair in the pedestrian zone to the full.

Day 8: Individual Return Journey or Extension

Included Services

7 overnight stays including large breakfast buffet
Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
Huckepack-transfer across Fern Pass and Reschen Pass
Tirol West Card
Extensive tour information and travel papers
Daily TouroPhone service from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Price per Person

3-star hotels (Landeck 4 star hotel)

Accommodation in double rooms	EUR 689.00
Single room surcharge	EUR 146.00
Half-board surcharge	EUR 155.00

Extras

Bike rental (incl. 14 litre saddle bag and tool kit)	EUR 65.00
Electric Bike	EUR 160.00
Transfer Bolzano - Augsburg	EUR 120.00
Vehicle transfer Augsburg - Bolzano	on request

