

# Cycling Safaris

## Lake Bled to Venice 2023

### Self guided tour

289 - 366 km | 8 days / 7 nights



The fairy-tale world of Lake Bled, its island church and cliff top castle will be your starting point, after which you'll cycle onwards through the majestic Julian Alps, over a high pass and down into the western valleys. The alpine meadows soon give way to terraced hills dotted with vineyards that lead you all the way into Italy and on towards the coast, where lazy promenades and beautiful Venetian architecture await you. This is a cycling holiday for people who want the perfect mix of amazing landscapes, great food and wine and historic sights.

#### Cycling tour highlights:

- Lake Bled's beautiful island church
- Cool alpine lakes and stunning mountains
- Great food & wine in historic villages
- Sun-soaked beaches and promenades
- Venice, enough said.....!

This tour is suitable for cyclists of average fitness, it includes one pass of 750m / 2500ft (but you have the whole day to do it on a quiet road and a help-out lift can be ordered). A definitive must for photographers and those who like mountain scenery but don't want to take too much effort to get it.

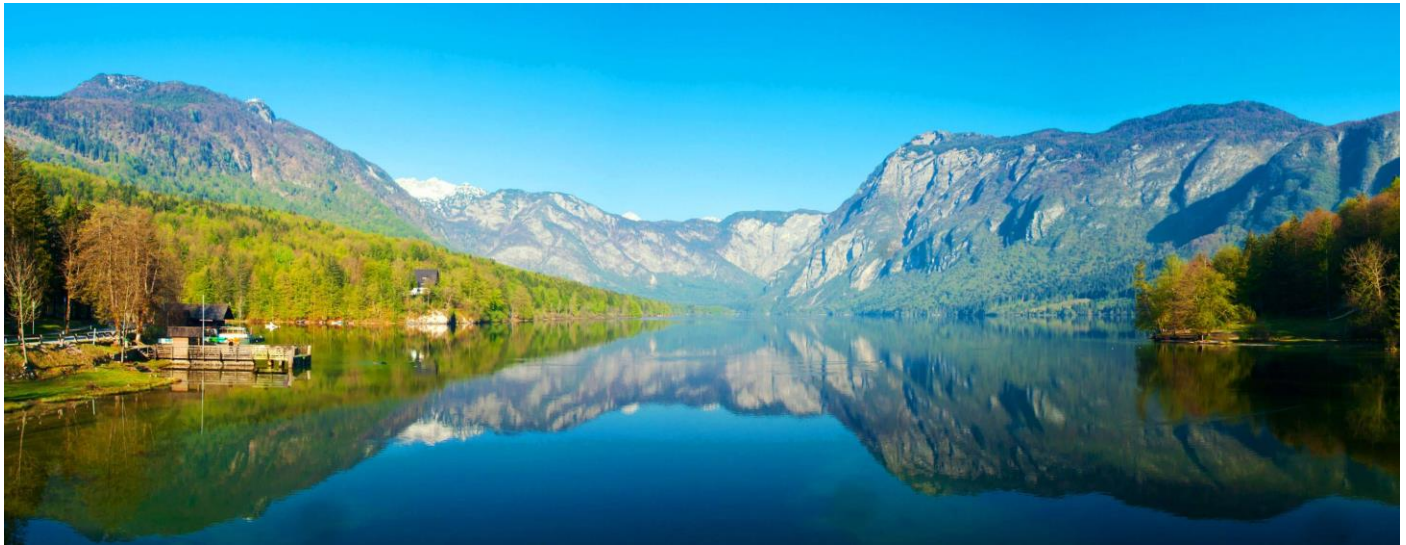
#### TOUR ITINERARY

##### Day 1 ARRIVAL TO LAKE BLEED

To begin with, you can dip your feet in the beautiful glacial Lake Bled. This shimmering body of water is famous for its distinctive island church and the cliff-top castle all backed by the beautiful Karavanke Mountains. Bled is one of Slovenia's most popular tourist attractions. You can take a stroll around the western side of the lake for some of the best views and photographs, and then have lunch and the locally famous cream cake (Kremšnita) on the eastern lakeside while watching the sunset over the mountains. (4\* hotel)

**Day 2**                    **BLED - BOHINJSKA BISTRICA**                    **27km/43km with possible side trip**

A short car transfer leaves you on the high plateau at Pokljuka. From here you'll cycle through alpine villages to Lake Bohinj, the jewel of the Triglav National Park. Encircled by tall mountain peaks, Bohinj is the largest and deepest lake in the national park. Savica Waterfall is the source of the lake and the Sava Bohinjka River. A cable car runs up to Vogel Mountain, where you can get a spectacular view into the Bohinj Valley and of Mount Triglav, the highest peak in the Julian Alps. (4\* spa hotel)



**Day 3**                    **BOHINJ - TOLMIN**                    **56km/35km if taking train to Podbrdo**

In the morning you'll have two options. Your route will take you via the Sorica Pass over the Julian Alps, but if you want to save some climbing you can take a short train ride through the Bohinj tunnel to Podbrdo. Then you peddle off through a narrow valley and follow the beautiful emerald-green Soča River as it rushes out of the mountains and into the western side of the Julian Alps. Just before reaching your destination you'll have a chance to dive into its supernatural waters, or visit the only monument in the world dedicated to military cooks. (3\* guesthouse)

**Day 4**                    **TOLMIN - SMARTNO/DOBROVO**                    **34 km/46km without uplift**

You will be car-transferred to Kolovrat Saddle - a million dollar viewpoint high above the Soča Valley. Once the site of heavy fighting during WW1, it's now a very interesting open-air museum. Reaching the first village, Mrs. Josephine, who lives all alone in an intact old-fashioned pub, will be overjoyed to welcome you in her shady garden! Cycling the ridges above two valleys, you'll reach your day's destination - Šmartno v Goriških Brdih, amid an abundance of lush vineyards. A recent and beautifully restored medieval village of narrow streets with Mediterranean houses, you can stretch your legs here, sip cool white wine and chat with locals in an authentic village pub. (3\* small family hotel with a view)



**Day 5 SMARTNO - GRADO****67 km**

After leaving the Brda wine region you'll reach the town of Gorizia, once the dividing point between Italy and Yugoslavia. While here, visit the very interesting Curtain museum. Further along the border you'll come to the smallest military museum in the world, a historic Yugoslav border outpost, and the ancient Kostanjevica Monastery, burial place of the last French King. Turning south and entering Italy, you'll soon reach the Adriatic Sea. You will spend the afternoon in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, passing by rivers, canals and ancient Roman towns. Your destination will be Aquileia, with its Roman excavations, or Grado, a lively historic resort town on a lagoon island. (3\* family hotel)

**Day 6 GRADO - PORTOGRUARO****87km or 59km if taking train ride**

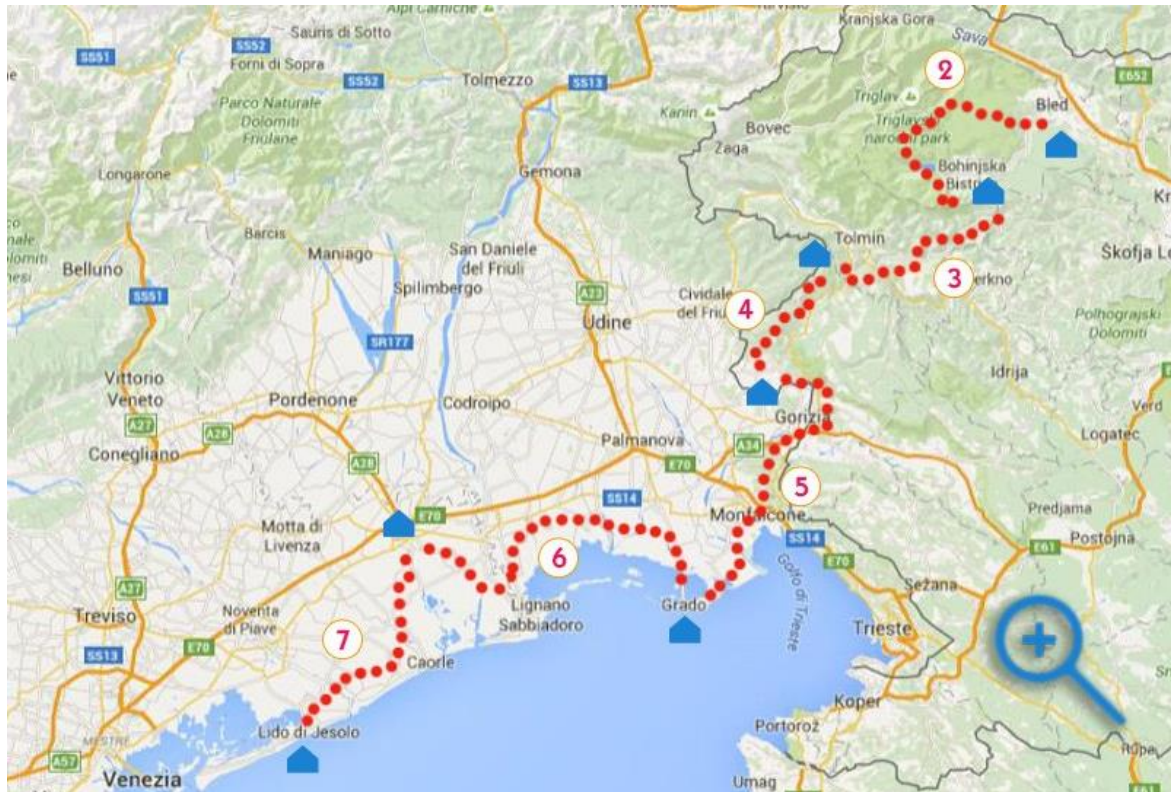
This morning you will head back inland a bit, leaving the sea behind you. You will pass through a multitude of "Valli da pesca" (stretches of lagoon enclosed by earthen dikes where extensive fish farming is practised) and "casoni" (constructions used by fishermen in the past during the fishing season). Your destination is the town of Portogruaro, one of the main centres in the period of the "Serenissima Republic of Venice", which is still impressive even today with its glorious "Palazzi" or "palaces". (4\* hotel)

**Day 7 PORTOGRUARO - LIDO DI JESOLO 67 km**

From Portogruaro you can look forward to a wonderful easy cycle westwards along the beautiful beaches of the Adriatic Coast. There are numerous opportunities to relax and swim so be sure to pack your swim gear. You will stay overnight in one of the two towns along this famous coastline, depending on availability. Jesolo is a gateway to Venice; from here you can easily travel onward to the airport or old city on the lagoon. (4\* beach resort hotel)

**Day 8****Departure**

Tour ends after breakfast.



## 2023 TOUR PRICE AND DATES

Tour can start Saturdays and Sundays from 25th March – 21st July, 21st August – 15th October 2023. Group of 6 plus can start any day of the week. No departure from 22nd July – 20th August.

Low Season (25th March – 7th May & 23rd Sept – 15th Oct)

€995 per person sharing

High Season (13th May – 21st July, 21st August – 17th Sept)

€1065 per person sharing

€220 Single Traveler Supplement (if traveling with others)

€360 Solo Traveler Supplement (if traveling alone)

Bike hire - €120

E-bike hire - €260

Helmet - €12

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Seven nights accommodation, Bed and Breakfast, 3- 4\* accommodation
- Luggage transfers (1 piece per person max. 20 kg)
- Information package including detailed route description and maps in electronic format
- Personal welcome meeting and bike fitting upon arrival
- GPS files
- Local tourist and other taxes in Slovenia
- Back up (hotline service) during the trip

Printed information package of route notes and corresponding maps delivered upon arrival for €30.

## ACCOMMODATION ON TOUR ( **this depends on availability** )

Night 1: Bled

Night 2: Bohinj- [Hotel Eco Bohinj 4\\*](#)

Night 3: Tolmin - [Hotel Rutar or Dvorec Tolmin 3\\*](#)

Night 4: Smartno - [Hotel San Martin Brda 4\\*](#)

Night 5: Grado - [Hotel Diana 3\\*](#)

Night 6: Portogruaro - [Hotel Spesotto 3\\* Portogruaro](#)

Night 7: Lido di Jesolo - [Hotel Bali 4\\* Lido di Jesolo](#)

### Additional accommodation

Bled 4\*-accommodation: €110 per person sharing in Lake View room; €180 single room;

Lido di Jesslo 4\*-accommodation: €105 per person sharing in Lake View room; €170 single room;

## WHAT TO BRING

- We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts or even a gel saddle cover to make your days cycling more comfortable (if you wish to bring your own saddle this is no problem). Cycling gloves are also a good investment.
- We highly recommend that you wear one. If you own a bicycle helmet please bring it, otherwise helmets can be rented for 12 euro each.
- Don't forget sun cream, sunglasses and sun hat.
- If you wish to use toe clips we advise you to bring your own pedals with toe clips, as the pedals on our bikes do not accommodate them.
- We do not provide rain gear so be sure to bring your own lightweight waterproofs.

## BIKE RENTAL

This tour is perfect for those who like mountain scenery, but don't want to take too much effort to get it. This is NOT a mountain bike tour. It is suitable for cyclists of average fitness, has one pass of 750m / 2500ft (but you have the whole day to do it on a quiet road) or we can arrange a lift.

Bike hire starts at 9am on day 2 of the trip and ends at 6pm on day 7.



Aluminium frame, Shimano gear system with "rapid-fire" shifters, 21 speed, Rack on back with 1 rear pannier, Repair kit, Lock, Cycling odometer

Helmets are not included but can be rented for 12 euro per week.

E-bikes available for €260

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Slovenia is a relatively small country with a small dispersed population (around 2 million inhabitants). Therefore the entry/exit points are fairly limited and it is often better served by places outside of the country.

The main access point is to fly into Ljubljana (the capital). There is a direct bus service from the airport to the centre of Bled. From Ljubljana buses depart from Bay 7 at the main bus station every hour on the hour and takes 1 hour and 15 minutes. You can also take a train up to Bled (the train station in Bled is called "Lesce Bled"). The journey takes just under an hour.

We can arrange private transfers for you to and from the tour:  
Price per transfer, one way. No pooling permitted.

### Transfer options

Route	1-3 Persons	4-8 Persons
Ljubljana Airport to Bled	€85	€115
Ljubljana City to Bled	€110	€150
Villach to Bled	€150	€170
Klagenfurt to Bled	€200	€240
Lesce Bled Railway Station to Bled	€30	€40
Venice to Marco Polo AP to Bled	€310	€420

The national airline is Adria Airways and it has a number of direct flights to major European cities. For more information check ([www.adria-airways.com](http://www.adria-airways.com)).

There are also many alternatives connections through other European hubs such as Frankfurt, Paris, Prague and Budapest with most of the major European Flag Carriers.

Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) fly to Trieste on the Italian side of the border where again you can take a train to and from Bled. The train service to and from Trieste is more complicated (as you may have to change trains and train stations in Nova Gorica or Ljubljana) so you should take care in your travel plans if coming to and from this airport. The airport is actually called Ronchi and is some 30km outside the city, which is actually closer to Gorizia (which is one of the trains stopping points).

All the details for the above train journeys are on the website  
<http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/en>

**(remember that the train station in Bled is called "Lesce Bled" and is 7km from the town of Bled itself).**  
We can pre-order taxis for you from various locations on request, so please contact us well in advance of the tour if you would like help.

### **Departing from Venice:**

By plane: Venice Marco Polo airport (VCE) or Treviso (TSF). Several airlines serve them. Please ask about our transfer services from your last hotel to the airports!

By train: Venice has two railway stations: Santa Lucia on the lagoon and Venice Mestre on the mainland. Please note not all international trains go to the station on the lagoon!