DESCRIPTION

This journey leads you through the less known part of the Drau cycle path, which is characterised by nativeness, nature orientation and scenic beauty. The Austrian part of the route is classified from ADFC as 5-star-quality-route, actually the Slovenian part is less developed – but in the next few years a lot is planned. Your journey starts in Villach. The bike city is situated next to river Drau. Carinthia’s second largest town with some 60,000 inhabitants captivates visitors with its easy-going, Mediterranean lifestyle – perfect for gourmets, art lovers, shopaholics and those seeking relaxation. In close proximity to the city are the two famous lakes, Faaker See and Ossiacher See. You leave Villach in eastern direction and immerse into a true natural paradise, soon arriving at the wide Rosental valley with its gentle hillside in the north and the jagged rocks of the Karawanken in the south. Just before passing the country’s frontiers to Slovenia, enjoy a detour to lake Klopeiner See. From the border town Dravograd the cycling path is not following the river at the valley bottom but above on the hillside of the mountains. Enjoy the great view over the Slovenian Drautal valley. The last destination of the trip is Maribor. The second largest city in the country is surrounded by vineyards and the river Drau. It beckons with its intriguing history, numerous museums, rafting tradition and festivals.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROUTE

Easy to medium heavy tour. In Austria, easy - it follows mostly the cycle path along asphalted or gravel roads on flat terrain. In Slovenia, the tour is more challenging, with a few slight ascents. Those track sections can be cut by using the train, even parts of it. The tour is suitable for children from the age of 14.
Day 1: Arrival in Villach
Villach - well known for its carnival;

Day 2: to Rosental valley (approx. 40-45 km)
The path follows the river, passing small swimming lakes;

Day 3: to Lake Klopeiner See (approx. 30-40 km)
Lake Klopeiner See - the warmest lake in the Alps;

Day 4: to Lavamünd (approx. 48 km)
Through the Jauntal valley you pass idyllic villages;

Day 5: to Radlje ob Dravi (approx. 35 km)
Don’t forget to taste the delicious Slovenian cream cake;

Day 6: to Maribor (approx. 45 km)
Take the opportunity to visit one of the many museums;

Day 7: Departure
Individual departure or extension of your stay.
**CYCLE HOLIDAY**

**DRAVA/DRAU - FROM VILLACH TO MARIBOR**

**DETAILED ROUTING**

**Day 1:** Arrival in Villach

Individual arrival at the starting-hotel in Villach. Parking place close to the hotel available.

**Day 2:** Villach - Rosental valley

(adv. 40 - 45 km)

You cycle next to the river Drau towards the east. On the first part the cycle path follows the river, passing small swimming lakes, through a nature reserve to Rosegg. The village marks the beginning of the Rosental valley and is rich in history and culture. The castle Rosegg and his labyrinth, as well as the Celtic World of Frőg are worth a sidetrip.

**Day 3:** Rosental valley - Lake Klopeinersee

(adv. 30 - 40 km)

Today you cycle through the Rosental valley, a natural finished countryside with mountains and the high peaks of the Karawanken, which are part of the Southern Alps. You cycle mostly next to the river to Ferlach, especially the factories of the gunsmiths are well worth seeing. Who wants to know more about this fascinating craft, should visit Castle Ferlach and the museum. You spend the night at the lake Klopeiner See.

**Day 4:** Lake Klopeinersee - Lavamünd

(adv. 48 km)

From lake Klopeinersee, the warmest lake in the Alps – after all the temperature reaches 26 degrees - you cycle further through the so called Jauntal valley. On the way you pass idyllic villages and just before arriving at today’s final destination you conquer the Santa Lucia suspension bridge. The Jauntalbrücke is the highest railway bridge in Central Europe and for the courageous it offers the possibility to do Bungee Jumping.

**Day 5:** Lavamünd – Radlje ob Dravi

(adv. 35 km)

Continuing down the Drau river by pedal power, your route follows its waters as it wends towards the country’s frontiers to Slovenia and further on to the the first village of the Slovenian Drautal valley named Dravograd or in German Unterdrauburg. Don’t forget to taste the delicious Slovenian cream cake. The bakery at the village entrance always has some of them in their assortment. In Dravograd you pass the river and the tour gets more challenging. Towards the end of the day you cycle above the valley floor along streets with light traffic. Just before arriving in Radlje ob Dravi again you cross the river and pass the natural swimming pool, perfect for a swim and to round off the day.

**Day 6:** Radlje ob Dravi - Maribor

(adv. 45 km)

At the beginning the Slovenian Drautal is wide and you pass idyllic places. Towards Maribor the valley narrows and turns into a gorge. The cycle path leads around, and is more demanding. Alternatively, you can take the train to overcome the more challenging part (ticket not included). Finally you arrive in Maribor or in German called Marburg. Take the opportunity to visit one of the many museums, for example the castle of Maribor which collections preserve archaeological as well as cultural and historical heritage.

**Day 7:** Departure

Individual departure or extension of your stay

**STARTING DATES 2018**

| ARRIVAL | every Sunday | 06/05/2018 (first available date) to 30/09/2018 (last available date) |
| NON SCHEDULE ARRIVAL DATES | minimum of 5 persons upon request |
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Classification of the cycle-tour: Self-guided tour
- Duration: 7 days | 6 nights
- Distance: approx. 198 - 213 km
- Starting point: Villach
- Accommodation in hotels or guesthouses - 3*** and/or 4**** category | Tourist tax – if requested – has to be paid on the spot
- Arrival:
  - By car | Villach is easily accessible on the motorways A2, A10 or A11 (depending on the point of origin).
  - By train | Good train connections to Villach | timetable available on: www.deutschebahn.de | www.oebb.at | www.trenitalia.com
  - By plane | Airport Klagenfurt, Salzburg or Ljubljana. From all three places, there are good train connections or to Villach.
- Parking: Depending on the first hotel unattended parking facilities are available, either directly at your hotel or nearby | Public parking garage at the cost of approx. € 35.00/week | Reservation of the parking area/parking garage not possible; payable on the spot.
- Transfer: Maribor > Villach | every Saturday | € 85.00 per person bicycle included | reservation and payment upon booking | minimum 2 persons
  Alternatively you can return by train time table on www.oebb.at or www.trenitalia.com
- Rental bikes: 21-gear women’s or men’s bicycle
  - 7-gear unisex bicycle with back pedal
  - Electro bike (unisex bike)

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Accommodation in hotels or guesthouses - 3*** and/or 4**** category
- Breakfast buffet or full breakfast
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Personal tour information
- Well planned routes
- Detailed documents (maps, route description, places of interest, important telephone numbers)
- Telephone service hotline for during the entire tour

NON INCLUDED SERVICES

- Arrival to the starting point of the tour
- Departure at the end of the tour
- Drinks and all extras
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Not mentioned entries
- Rental bikes
- Travel insurance
- All not expressly mentioned under the item „Included services”
## PRICES 2018

### SELF-GUIDED TOUR

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Package price per person in a double room with breakfast – arrival date 06/05 and 30/09/2018</td>
<td>€ 549.00</td>
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<td>Package price per person in a double room with breakfast</td>
<td>€ 649.00</td>
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<td>Surcharge single room per night</td>
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<td>High season* surcharge per person</td>
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### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

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<tr>
<td>Rental bike</td>
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<td>Electro bike</td>
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### EXTRA NIGHTS in Villach; 3*** hotel

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### EXTRA NIGHTS in Maribor; 3*** hotel

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<td>Per person and night in a double room with breakfast</td>
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### EXTRA NIGHTS in Maribor; 4**** hotel

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* High season: arrival date from 23/06/2018 to 08/09/2018 (incl.)