

Classic Passes of the Dolomites



Our Classic Passes of the Dolomites tour has been carefully designed to showcase the very best of this UNESCO World Heritage landscape. Rather than remaining in one location, we journey through the heart of the mountains, staying in four traditional alpine towns as we ride from valley to valley over some of Italy's most celebrated mountain passes.

Beginning in the picturesque town of Cavalese, we warm up with a stunning ride over Passo Costalunga before heading towards the dramatic scenery surrounding the Marmolada glacier and the mountain village of Arabba. From here we tackle the world-famous Sella Ronda, one of cycling's most iconic circular routes, before crossing Passo Falzarego into elegant Cortina d'Ampezzo.

The second half of the tour continues through spectacular alpine scenery with rides beneath the towering Tre Cime di Lavaredo and an unforgettable final day over the magnificent Passo Giau before descending into Agordo.

Each day offers quiet mountain roads, breathtaking scenery, welcoming cafés and authentic Italian hospitality. With the support of our experienced Peak Tours team, comfortable hotels and luggage transfers throughout, you can simply enjoy some of the finest road cycling Europe has to offer.

Designed for experienced cyclists with a good level of fitness, this Grade 7-8 tour combines challenging climbs with rewarding descents, unforgettable scenery and the unique atmosphere that has made the Dolomites one of cycling's true bucket-list destinations.

Highlights

- Ride some of the most famous mountain roads in world cycling.
- Complete the legendary Sella Ronda, one of Europe's most iconic cycling loops.
- Climb the spectacular Passo Costalunga, Passo Pordoi, Passo Fidaia, Passo Falzarego and Passo Giau.
- Experience breathtaking scenery in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomites.
- Stay at the renowned mountain resorts of Cavalese, Arabba and Cortina d'Ampezzo.
- Enjoy beautifully surfaced mountain roads with exhilarating descents and quiet alpine valleys.
- Ride beneath the dramatic peaks surrounding Lago di Misurina and the famous Tre Cime area. Stay in carefully selected hotels offering comfortable accommodation and excellent Italian hospitality.
- Full support from experienced Peak Tours ride leaders and support vehicle. A perfect combination of challenging cycling, spectacular scenery and authentic Italian culture.

What's included?

7 nights accommodation, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches

Refreshment stops with our famous red brew vans

Mechanical support including spare bikes and equipment

GPS files and route notes

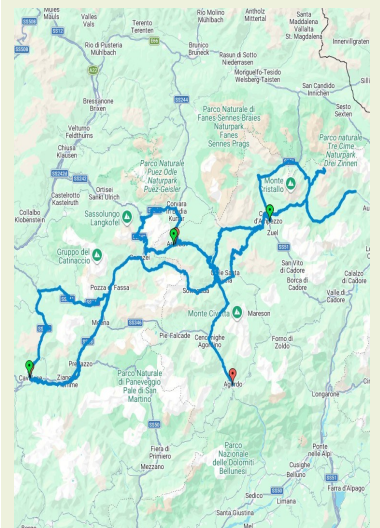
Full logistical planning and support from the first to the last night including luggage transfers

2 back up vans and a guide cycling at the back of the group

Pick up from Venice Marco Polo airport on arrival day (Saturday) and transfer to a hotel near to Venice airport on the final day (Friday)

Peak Tours cycle shirt and certificate

Lots of Fun!



Itinerary

Saturday: Arrival Non-riding day

Our guides will set off from our base in Glos-sop on Thursday with the bikes and stop a couple of times en route to the ferry to pick up any additional bikes.

Your holiday begins at Venice Marco Polo Airport, where the Peak Tours team will be waiting to welcome you.

Our coach departs the airport at 3:00 pm for the scenic transfer into the heart of the Dolomites. The journey to Cavalese takes approximately 2½ hours, giving you your first glimpse of the spectacular mountain scenery that awaits during the week ahead.

After checking into the hotel, there will be time to look over your bikes, meet your fellow cyclists and enjoy a relaxed evening before the adventure begins.

Sunday: Day 1 Cavalese loop

Distance: 47 miles / 76 km
Elevation: 6200ft / 1900m

Our first ride is the perfect introduction to the Dolomites. Leaving the charming alpine town of Cavalese, we follow a dedicated tarmacked cycle path through the beautiful Fiemme Valley, passing the bustling mountain villages of Predazzo and Moena before reaching Vigo di Fassa. From here the climbing truly begins as we tackle the magnificent Passo Costalunga. This classic Dolomite pass winds steadily upwards through forests before emerging beneath towering limestone peaks, offering spectacular panoramic views across the surrounding mountains. After enjoying a rewarding descent into Nova Levante, we continue through Birchbruck before returning via quiet mountain roads to Cavalese. It's an unforgettable opening day that introduces riders to the scenery, road quality and atmosphere that make the Dolomites one of the world's premier cycling destinations.

Monday: Day 2 Cavalese to Arabba

Distance: 53 miles / 85km
Elevation: 6340ft / 1930m

Today's ride takes us deeper into the heart of the Dolomites as we leave Cavalese and make our way towards the spectacular mountain village of Arabba. The day begins by following the dedicated cycle path through the beautiful Fiemme Valley, passing Predazzo and Moena before arriving in Canazei, one of the region's best-known mountain resorts. Beyond Canazei the landscape becomes increasingly dramatic as we climb towards the shimmering waters of Lago di Fedaia, sitting beneath the

imposing Marmolada – the highest mountain in the Dolomites. This is one of the week's most memorable viewpoints and an ideal place to pause and take in the scenery. From the lake we enjoy a wonderful descent before the final undulating approach into Arabba, a traditional alpine village surrounded by some of the finest cycling roads in Europe.

Tuesday: Day 3 The legendary Sella Ronda

Distance: 32 miles / 51 km
Elevation: 5500 ft / 1700 m

Although today's mileage is the shortest of the week, it is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire tour. Starting and finishing in Arabba, we ride the world-famous Sella Ronda in a clockwise direction, completing one of cycling's most iconic mountain loops. The route links four magnificent Dolomite passes, each with its own unique character, panoramic views and exhilarating descent. Throughout the day you'll be surrounded by towering limestone cliffs, lush alpine meadows and spectacular mountain scenery that has made this region a favourite amongst professional cyclists and amateur riders alike. With cafés and mountain refuges scattered around the route, there are plenty of opportunities to stop for coffee, strudel or lunch whilst soaking up the unforgettable atmosphere. Many cyclists travel from around the world simply to ride the Sella Ronda. Today you'll understand exactly why.

Wednesday: Day 4 Arabba to Cortina d'Ampezzo

Distance: 35 miles / 56 km
Elevation: 4200ft / 1300m

Leaving Arabba behind, today's route takes us across yet another of the Dolomites' classic mountain passes as we head for the elegant resort town of Cortina d'Ampezzo. After a gentle start through the mountain valleys, we begin the climb towards the magnificent Passo Falzarego. This historic pass has featured countless times in the Giro d'Italia and offers stunning views in every direction, with dramatic rock formations towering above the road. A rewarding descent brings us into Cortina d'Ampezzo, often referred to as the 'Queen of the Dolomites'. Host of the 1956 Winter Olympics and venue for the 2026 Winter Olympic alpine events, Cortina combines breathtaking scenery with stylish cafés, boutiques and lively piazzas.

With a shorter ride today, there's plenty of time to wander through the town, enjoy a leisurely coffee or simply relax before tomorrow's mountain adventure.

Itinerary

Thursday: Day 5 Choose Your Challenge!

The Tre Cime Ride

Distance: 35 miles / 56 km
Elevation: 5000ft / 1500m OR

Distance: 55 miles / 89 km
Elevation: 7400ft / 2250m

Today offers the flexibility to choose the ride that best suits your legs while still experiencing some of the most spectacular scenery of the entire week. Leaving Cortina d'Ampezzo, both routes head north along beautifully surfaced mountain roads towards the crystal-clear waters of Lago di Misurina, one of the Dolomites' most photographed locations. Surrounded by towering peaks, the lake provides a stunning setting for a coffee stop before continuing over the Passo Tre Croci, another classic Dolomite climb offering magnificent views in every direction. Riders choosing the Classic Route return to Cortina after enjoying a wonderful circuit through the surrounding mountains, while those opting for the Epic Route continue further north on a quieter and more adventurous loop through the beautiful Giralba Valley before rejoining the route back to Cortina. Whichever option you choose, today perfectly captures everything that makes cycling in the Dolomites so unforgettable—quiet mountain roads, dramatic scenery, rewarding climbs and exhilarating descents. Returning to Cortina for a second evening gives you another opportunity to enjoy this elegant alpine town, perhaps with a well-earned gelato or an aperitivo in one of its bustling cafés.



Friday: Day 6 Cortina d'Ampezzo to Agordo

Distance: 35 miles / 56 km
Elevation: 3800ft / 1150m

Leaving Cortina, we soon begin the magnificent ascent of the Passo Giau, widely regarded as one of the finest climbs in Europe. Rising steadily through forests before opening onto sweeping alpine meadows beneath dramatic limestone peaks, every bend reveals another breathtaking panorama. It is a climb to savour and one that many cyclists consider the highlight of any Dolomite adventure. From the summit, a spectacular descent carries us into the Val Fiorentina before we continue through the picturesque mountain villages surrounding Alleghe and Taibon Agordino. As the scenery gradually changes from high alpine peaks to peaceful wooded valleys, we follow quiet mountain roads south towards our final destination. Our journey concludes in the town of Agordo. It's the perfect setting to celebrate an incredible week of cycling, reflect on the passes we've conquered and enjoy one final evening together with fellow riders. Over six unforgettable days we will have ridden many of the Dolomites' most celebrated roads, experienced some of Europe's finest mountain scenery and created memories that will last a lifetime. After lunch a coach will transfer everyone to a hotel close to Venice for the final night and celebratory meal.

Saturday: Day 7 Departure Day

As you are close to Venice Marco Polo airport you can fly home at whatever time suites or you may wish to stay longer and experience the sights of Venice.

As always, our team will be on hand to assist with bike packing and luggage before your journey home.



Tour Logistics

The start of the tour

The arrival day for the tour is Saturday.

The tour starts in Cavalese which is a 2.5 hour transfer from Venice Marco Polo airport.

We have arranged a transfer for the group to leave the airport at 15.00. This will allow time to settle in and have a look around town before the first night group meal and then the cycling starts on Sunday.

If you arrive after 15.00 then you will need to arrange your own transport to Cavalese.

There will be a welcome meal on the first evening where the guides will give a brief.

The end of the tour

The final cycling day is on Friday. After a fantastic mornings cycle we finish the tour with an amazing lunch at the town of Agordo. After lunch a coach will transport everyone to our final stay of the tour at a hotel close to Venice.

If you are taking your bike back with you on the plane then we will transport your bike to **the airport** for you and hand it to you at the airport. If you booked for the European Bike Transfer (£60) we will take it back to our HQ in Glossop for you to collect at a later date.

If you choose to have your bike couriered back to you from Glossop when back in the UK (please contact the office for a quote) then your bikes

will be packed & we can arrange this for you.

Support

Usually each tour has 3 guides:

- One driving the 'brew van' - each day will usually have a morning and afternoon 'brew stop,' with a table full of snacks and drinks. You will also bring a small bag/rucksack to the morning brief and leave this in the 'brew van' which can be accessed throughout the day.
- One driving the 'luggage / lunch van' - transporting your luggage from hotel to hotel, as well as setting up your lunches.
- One riding at the back of the group - you will have detailed route notes so that you can go slower or faster than the leader if you prefer or you can cycle with the tour guide at the back so that you don't have to navigate at all.
- Mechanical support: we carry a range of spare parts so that repairs can be made en route and we also have spare bikes available in the event that your bike has a serious breakdown. If we can't fix your bike then we will get it to the nearest bike shop.
- Each guide will be contactable by phone during the day so if you have any issues you can get straight in touch with them.
- For smaller groups you might only have



What's Included?

- 7 nights accommodation, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches
- Refreshments from the brew van
- Mechanical support including spare bikes should these be needed
- GPS files and route notes
- Full logistical planning and support from the first to the last night including luggage transfers
- 2 back up vans
- A guide cycling at the back of the group
- Pick up from airport 15.00 on arrival day (Saturday) and transfer to Venice on the final Friday. Accommodation is included near Venice on Friday.
- A Peak Tours cycle shirt and certificate
- Lots of fun!

Food

Breakfast

Breakfast in Italy is usually a fairly simple affair and varies from place to place, but the hotels we use for this trip all have a nice selection on offer. You can expect a very good selection of continental fare and also some cooked options too.

Lunch

All of your breakfasts and lunches are included in the price of the trip. Lunches (but not drinks) will be provided each day, and will generally be at a restaurant or cafe with pasta, salads, sandwiches and local fare etc. We will endeavour to do our best to get the lunches at a similar time to our other trips, but in Italy it does tend to be later for breakfast lunches and evening meals in general.

Evening meals

Evening meals are not included and **can be bought at the hotels or in one of the many restaurants available nearby.** We also have fruit, biscuits, nuts etc in the back up van that you are welcome to pick at throughout the day and if there are specific snacks you would like, as ever, just let us know.

Dietary requirements

Please let us know of any dietary requirements you have and we will ensure that all lunch stops and places we eat evening meals are informed. There will also be snacks on the famous 'brew van'.

Accommodation

You have a choice sharing a double or a twin room. If you would like your own space then you can choose the single room option, or sole occupancy of a double. All of the rooms should be ensuite on this tour, but there may be an unusual scenario

What's not included?

- Evening meals / dinner
- Drinks at lunchtime
- Insurance
- Cycle hire (available for a fee)
- Garmin hire (available for a fee)
- Transport to the start and from at the end of the tour for you and your bike (available for a fee)

where your room isn't en suite (sole occ of a double & double is guaranteed en suite). All of the accommodation is in comfortable 3-4 star accommodation.

Kit list

Clothing for all weathers is recommended so waterproofs are essential.

A full recommended kit list is provided and we are always happy to answer any questions that you may have. You can see details of a kit list [here](#).

Luggage is restricted to a maximum of 18kg per person—we have to look after our guides and their backs as they will be carrying your luggage in and out of the hotels!

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate insurance for your tour which, as an absolute minimum should cover accident & medical expenses if you are travelling outside the UK, cover for your bike and belongings and cancellation cover in the event that you have to cancel your tour for unforeseen circumstances.

You should be aware that if you have an accident or fall ill while on the tour you will lose the money paid for the trip. A travel insurance policy would allow you to reclaim most of the money as well as providing insurance in case you lose your bags or if your bike is stolen, broken etc.

Your policy should also cover cancellation costs if you cancel the tour within 8 weeks of departure. If this happens we will try to fill your space and return your funds to you but if we are unable to fill your place you will lose the funds paid for the tour.

We have partnered with Yellow Jersey who provide Travel and Cycle insurance for UK residents. You

Am I fit enough?

Difficulty

The Dolomites tour is graded at 7 or 8 depending on whether you choose the shorter or longer route options. This tour is suitable for someone with a good level of fitness and who wants a challenge. The fitter you are and the more training that you do beforehand will add to the enjoyment of your holiday.

With a difficulty rating of 7 to 8/10, this tour is the perfect progression for riders who have completed the Land's End to John O'Groats or 14-Day Channel to Med and are needing their next challenge, whilst stopping shy of the difficulty of our 10-day tours.

Take a look at the Itinerary section, and if you need any advice about fitness, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss any questions and concerns that you may have.

See details of difficulty rating [here](#).

Whilst the mileages each day are low, this tour involves a lot of climbing (and amazing scenery) as we take in a number of the Dolomites most iconic passes.

Most people on the tour will be active cyclists, and cycling the above distances on consecutive days will not be too challenging for them.

How fast do I need to be?

Generally, most cyclists completing this tour will be capable of cycling at 10-12 mph / 16-19 kmph over the whole day, keeping in mind that some days are hillier than others, and you will be stopping for breaks and lunches.

We ask that all riders are finished by 18:00 at the latest if possible, to allow you time to relax and explore the places that you stay in the evenings.

Climbing on the tour

This is a hilly tour and you should be prepared for with adequate training, but the gradients are generally much more manageable ranging from around 3% to 6% typically but there are a number of steep climbs up to 10% with a number of long, sustained climbs so please ensure that you have done plenty of training to allow better enjoyment of your tour.

Training

The fitter you are and the more training that you do beforehand will add to the enjoyment of your tour and improve your chances of succeeding the challenge.

We have a training document which has a suggested training programme, which you can access [here](#)

Bikes

The Dolomites tour can be completed by people on all types of bikes: it is important you ride on a bike on which you are most comfortable. Most people will choose to ride on a road bike for this tour.

The roads on this tour are generally of a very good quality with the occasional rougher section on some of the narrower back roads. Hard wearing 25mm tyres and up are fine.

You can transport your bike in the following ways:

- We can transport your bike for you if you can get your bike to us in Glossop in the Peak District (£60 charge)
- We can meet you at a service station en-route (We unfortunately cannot deviate from the route and we have set stops) Details to follow after booking.

Please ensure that your bike is fully serviced and in good working order before the start of the trip. It is advisable to have your bike service a few weeks before the start of the tour.

