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From Lake Garda to the Adriatic Peschiera-Ferrara-Po Delta



DAY BY DAY

1. Arrival in Peschiera del Garda, a fortified town surrounded by the lake's waters, and renowned for its 19th century military architecture and art treasures.

2. Peschiera del Garda-Mantova (45 km, elevation up 0 m). From Peschiera, skirting the Mincio, you follow Italy's most famous cycleway and reach Mantova. Along the way, you discover the settlements of Borghetto, with its iconic watermills and Valeggio, with its Parco Sigurtà, a green oasis spread across 600,000 sqm.

3. Mantova-Ostiglia/Sermide (45/65 km, elevation up 0 m). Leaving Mantova along its lakes and the Mincio, you arrive at the historic lock of Governolo and join Italy's largest waterway: the majestic River Po. A detour leads to Polirone Abbey at San Benedetto: designed by Giulio Romano for the Benedictine Order, it remains one of the most magnificent in northern Italy. Carrying on along the Po cycleway, you arrive to the overnight stay in Ostiglia or Sermide, a crossing which witnessed some of the fiercest fighting at the end of the Second World War.

4. Ostiglia/Sermide-Ferrara (65/45 km, elevation up 0 m). You resume along the Po and arrive at Stellata, a settlement where the star-shaped Rocca Possente, an 11th century fortress, once controlled the river's shipping from the floodplain. At Bondeno you veer off to catch the scenic cycling path of the

Burana Canal, tree-lined all the way to Ferrara. Once ruled by the Este dynasty and a key city state of the Italian Renaissance, Ferrara is now a thriving university town and Italy's "Cycling Capital".

5. Ferrara-Ostellato (40 km, elevation up 0 m). Today's stage offers the discovery of two of the Este family's celebrated Delizie: Belriguardo and Verginese. Built between the 14th and 16th centuries, both form part of the collection of country retreats and hunting lodges playfully known as "Delights". Along with Ferrara itself, in its day a pioneering example of town planning, these villas are listed as World Heritage Sites by virtue of their seamless fusion of Renaissance vision and natural landscape. Overnight stop at Ostellato.

6. Ostellato-Po Delta (55/60 km, elevation up 0 m). The Po di Primaro cycleway leads to the 9th century Abbey of Pomposa, a major centre of learning in the Dark Ages. Cycling towards the coast through the Mesola Forest Nature Reserve, you emerge at the tiny fishermen's harbour of Goro, with its picturesque waterfront. Welcome to the Po Delta, its fishing "valleys" and brackish lagoon, home to over 300 species of birds.

7. Po Delta Round Tour (50 km, elevation up 0 m). Following the cycleway that joins seven beaches through a landscape of pine woods and white dunes, you arrive at Comacchio, a small town in the heart of the lagoon and considered the Delta's capital. Founded on 13 islets linked by bridges and canals, Comacchio

also boasts the area's richest historic centre. Pushing deeper into the lagoon, you explore its fishing farms, or "valleys", with their fishermen's shacks, salt marshes and, hopefully, spot some of the Delta's unmissable flamingoes. The loop takes you back to our hotel.

8. Po Delta. Breakfast and end of tour.

ROUTE PROFILE

- Total Length: 300 km
- Total vertical up: 0 m
- Terrain: 90% asphalt, 10% unpaved
- Train connection among the overnight stays: day 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Possibility to shorten the itinerary by taking the train: day 4 and 6

The tour is completely on flat terrain and along cycling tracks – typically embankments and country paths – and occasional minor roads with low-level traffic. Some stretches within the Po Delta Reserve are on rough (but unchallenging) tracks, although the tour is largely on tarmacked surfaces.

PARKING

In Peschiera: free in unguarded public parking at approx. 1 km from the hotel.

BY PLANE

Peschiera is very well connected to the following airports: Verona (VRN), Venice (VCE).

PRICE PER PERSON



SELF GUIDED TOUR

2/3/4*Hotels
628 € DBL
+ 180 € SGL



BICYCLE RENT

65 € Girolibero bike
15 € Helmet

EXTRA NIGHTS

In Peschiera

65/90 € DBL/SGL

In Po Delta area

50/65 € DBL/SGL

TRANSFERS

To be confirmed when booking the tour

Po Delta-Peschiera del Garda

290 € (up to 4 persons)

350 € (5-8 persons)

REDUCTIONS

3rd person in room:

100 €

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

7 nights accommodation, breakfast buffet, luggage transportation, route description & maps, 7-days Hotline service.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Local taxes (approx 10-15 €).

DEPARTURES

Every Sunday from April 13th to July 20 and from August 24th to October 5th 2014.
Special departure dates for at least 6 persons!