



münchen
venezia

biking
pleasure

Cycling route München-Venezia



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INDEX

The München-Venezia cycling route: the project 4

The München-Venezia cycling route: the itinerary 5
through the Alps to the Adriatic by bicycle

ROADBOOK

1. THE WATER EXPERIENCE 10

Munich-Jenbach 129.9 km
(western route)

1. THE WATER EXPERIENCE 36

Munich-Jenbach 124.6 km
(eastern route)

2. THE TREASURES OF TYROL 50

Jenbach-Brenner Pass 77.2 km

3. AN ALPINE-MEDITERRANEAN
WAY OF LIFE 64

Brenner Pass-Dobbiaco 109.8 km

4. THE DOLOMITES UNESCO
HERITAGE SITE 82

Dobbiaco-Sella di Fadalto 112.8 km

Towards Belluno 102
detour 11.8 km

Belluno-Feltre-Belluno (Paiane) 104
tour of Valbelluna - 101.3 km

5. THE GARDENS OF VENICE
AND THE CITIES OF ART 116

Sella di Fadalto-Treviso-Venice 136.2 km

Treviso-Punta Sabbioni-Venice 142
alternative route - 88.9 km

The München-Venezia cycling route: the project

The Munich-Venice cycling route is an itinerary that crosses three nations covering 570 kilometres (900 km including alternatives). It starts from the historical centre of Munich, crosses the Alps and the Brenner Pass and – passing through the wonderful Unesco World Heritage Site of the Dolomites and the hills of Treviso – reaches the Venetian lagoon.

This became a reality in the summer of 2015, offering thousands of cycle-tourists and bicycle-lovers the possibility to experience an authentic emotion - plunged into nature, discovering new landscapes every day, unforgettable sights, alpine lakes, castles, monasteries, old bridges, museums, Roman roads, rivers, archaeological ruins.

Two programmes financed by the European Union according to the “European Regional Development Fund” – Interreg Bayern-Österreich 2007-2013 and Interreg Italia Austria 2007-2013 – joined together in a three nation project to carry out a cycle-tourist route which, using already existing cycling paths and secondary roads, would connect Germany, Austria and Italy.

The project started from the desire to offer the continually increasing number of bicycle-lovers not only functional, safe and welcoming itineraries but a single route which could ideally connect two wonderful cities, crossing amazingly beautiful territories, overcoming the fragmentary nature of the various paths, for an experience which goes beyond the borders, becoming pleasure, adventure, discovery and culture.

The close collaboration among the partners of the project – Provincia di Belluno and Landkreis Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen (the leading partners), the Tourismusverband Achensee, the Comunità Comprensoriale Valle Isarco di Bressanone, GECT “Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino” di Bolzano, the Provincia di Treviso and the Provincia di Venezia – as well as the active involvement of authorities and professionals, Consortiums and Tourist Associations, has made it possible to reach the goals that were set:

- The identification, georeferencing and charting of the almost 900 km of the route (including alternatives);

- The realisation of the website www.muenchen-venezia.info in three languages (Italian, German and English);
- The preparation of an interactive map complete with detailed infrastructural indications, tourist attractions and bike friendly operators for a personalised programming of the itinerary;
- Integrated promoting, webmarketing campaigns, educational campaigns involving the mass media of the three nations, organisation of events/inauguration of new cycling paths;
- The realisation of promotional materials and information: various gadgets, a folding map and this road-book, well-illustrated and complete with detailed maps.

To find out more about the two cross-border European programmes www.interreg-bayaut.net, www.interreg.net



The München-Venezia cycling route: the itinerary through the Alps to the Adriatic by bicycle

5

It is now possible to find a single route, structured and well signed that connects Bavaria to the Adriatic and consequently Munich to Venice, making it possible to have a better knowledge of the surrounding territory thanks to the bicycle, the most ecological means of transport.

In fact, the bicycle with its non-invasive approach and its low speed, allows us to fully appreciate all the cultural, gastronomic and natural stimulations that this route can conjure up – in all its various aspects – it permits us to take them in and internalise them without any hurry, at a rhythm which is more people-friendly.

The Munich-Venice cycling route crosses three nations – Germany, Austria, Italy – with an itinerary of about 570 kilometres (900 km including alternatives) which goes through the Alps and leads from Central Europe to the Mediterranean, more specifically – the Adriatic sea – passing through the Dolomites, a Unesco World Heritage Site.

The itinerary has been divided into five chapters, five large thematic areas, five suggestions (which do not have to be taken as fixed stages as they can obviously be broken up into the number of days required).

The first is called **The water experience** and refers to the stretch from Munich to Jenbach, which also includes the border crossing between Germany and Austria and offers two different routes, western and eastern. The first (129.9 km) follows the Isar River using the Isar-Radweg cycling path and the second (124.6 km) leads to the Tegernsee Lake and the Achenpass alpine valley. The two routes join up again while descending the Achenpass to then lead to the banks of the wonderful Achen Lake.

The second is called **The Treasures of Tyrol** and goes from Jenbach to the Brenner Pass (77.2 km); this is entirely carried out in Austria – mainly along the well-known Inn cycling path – and it leads to the splendid Tyrolean mediaeval towns and their old mines. Arriving in Innsbruck you go up along the Wipptal (alternatively you can take the train to the Brenner Pass) to reach the border with Italy, at 1372 m a.s.l.

The third chapter starts here, **An alpine-Mediterranean way of life**, from the Brenner Pass to Dobbiaco (109.8 km): a route through the beauty of Alto Adige, a place where the alpine climate blends with a more Mediterranean way of life, hospitality and a lot of attention to the tastes and pleasures of fine dining. After Vipiteno, a short detour will lead to Bressanone, then you go up the Puster Valley until you reach Dobbiaco.

The fourth chapter, **The Dolomites – Unesco World Heritage Site**,

leads from Dobbiaco to Sella di Fadalto (112.8 km) into the heart of the Dolomites passing under the Tre Cime di Lavaredo and the most beautiful peaks of Ampezzo and Belluno, going through towns like Cortina d'Ampezzo and Pieve di Cadore and close to Longarone and the wonderful capital of the province, Belluno, which can be reached with a short detour of 11.8 km, you then continue towards the Santa Croce Lake, a paradise for water sports, and you reach Sella di Fadalto, at the border with the province of Treviso. A circular excursion is recommended from Belluno, the Tour of Val Belluna (101.3 km) towards the pretty city of Feltre, returning to Belluno and the Munich-Venice cycling route, pedalling along the left of the Piave River.

The last chapter, **The gardens of Venice and the cities of art**, goes from Sella di Fadalto to Venice (136.2 km) through splendid towns like Vittorio Veneto, Conegliano, Treviso passing by the famous Prosecco vineyards, Montello and touching the important archaeological area of Altino before reaching the much sought after Venetian lagoon. Arriving near Treviso, at Silea, you can choose another alternative (88.9 km) to reach the Venetian lagoon along the Piave River and the beaches of Jesolo and Cavallino passing through small towns like Roncade, Noventa di Piave, San Donà di Piave, Jesolo, Cavallino until you reach Punta Sabbioni, where you can catch a boat to Venice. The choice is yours.

To return to Munich from Venice you can go by plane from the nearby

Venice airport, Tessera Marco Polo, or by train: there are daily direct trains Venice-Munich (www.trenitalia.com or www.bahn.de).

Bicycle tourists are warmly welcomed all along the route with great hospitality. In fact, the territory offers many specific infrastructures (picnic areas, playgrounds, parking lots, and refreshment areas), a great availability of various hotels for all requirements (from campsites to historical residences), and a network of mechanics and bike-hire that makes it easy to overcome any technical difficulties. Along most of the route there is also the possibility to carry out some stretches by train (highly recommended from Innsbruck to the Brenner Pass).

In this road-book you will find all the information regarding each chapter (telephone numbers and websites) relative to the tourist offices of the various places you go through, while for further details about hotels, restaurants, mechanics and much more please consult the detailed official site **www.muenchen-venezia.info**.





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THE WATER EXPERIENCE

Munich-Jenbach 129.9 km
(western route)

During the first part of the Munich-Venice cycling route the most characteristic element is undoubtedly water. Do you feel like diving into a lake or taking a break in a quiet *Biergarten* (open-air beer-garden) near a cool stream? The itinerary takes you from the Bavarian metropolis of Munich, with its beautiful city beaches along the Isar River – the river with green reflections – passing through Bad Tölz, “the most beautiful reception room” in the Bavarian plateau, as well as the pic-



turesque Tegernsee, along to Sylvensteinsee and continuing to Achen Lake, the legendary “Tyrolean Sea”. Along the way you can admire the polar bears swimming at the Munich zoo, Kugler Alm – considered the birthplace of Radlermass, a beer based drink containing low quantities of alcohol – and you will be able to eat and drink with pleasure at the many open air bars and restaurants.



Bad Tölz

The Schäftlarn monastery attracts so many people with its culture, the Wallberg, the mountain of Tegernsee, will enthuse you with a great number of possibilities for carrying out sporting tours, while Achen Lake will impress you with its splendid waters which are ideal for swimming and water sports in general. Karwendel, the natural park, offers numerous natural pleasures with 1305 types of



The Achen Lake

plants, 3035 animal species and 350 sources of water.

Relaxation, enjoyment, sporting events, culture and lots of water make both the western route, which goes alongside the Isar, a dream, in the same way as the eastern one which goes along the western coast of the Tegernsee.



Wiesnherzen

Munich the bicycle capital: discovering Munich on two wheels

A network of 1,200 km (745 miles) of bike paths makes Munich one of the most bicycle-friendly cities in Europe. In the central area, in the meadows and woods as well as along the water, cyclists can take well-marked routes, bike paths or limited traffic streets to reach the most beautiful spots and sights in the city.

Active enjoyment by bike, pedaling away and moving along under your own power, stopping whenever you feel like it to sample the special atmosphere of a fascinating place, sipping a refreshing “Radler” drink (beer mixed in equal parts with lemonade) on a sun deck: you can enjoy Munich at its best even from the saddle. A network of well-marked bicycle routes starting in the heart of the city at Marienplatz square and leading in all directions, facilitates

sightseeing by bike in Munich. The attractive routing is very inviting: world-famous art collections and museums, historical buildings and highlights of modern architecture are only a short bike ride away. It takes you along castle walls, through town gates and inner-city ring roads: along the Isar River which flows through the city (14 km -8.7 miles), flanked by green meadowlands and graded gravel banks, flows through the city; the English Garden with its 417 hectares (1,030 acres) is one of the largest city parks in the world.

Bicycling combines fitness and fun; no bike trip would be complete without some wonderful stops along the way – to enjoy a refreshing Radler drink in a beer garden, to have some ice cream at a kiosk, to fortify yourself with a picnic in a meadow or to admire a sunset from a beautiful terrace?

Deutsches Museum: touching science and technology

Inaugurated over a century ago, the Deutsches Museum is in the heart of Munich and is one of the most important museums of science and technology in the world, appreciated by both children and adults. In its many sections (there is also a wonderful planetarium) natural and physical laws are explained, all the main scientific inventions and discoveries made by man. Opening hours: every day, 9 – 5.



Head towards the bridge and after 100 metres cross the river turning right, onto the orographic right (eastern bank of the Isar), along Zeppelin Strasse. You are already pedalling on an asphalted cycling lane under shady trees which rise from the riverbanks, amidst luxuriant parks and gardens, go straight on, going under a lot of bridges, one of which is a railway bridge at **km 2.3** and a motorway



Munich, Deutsches Museum: off you go

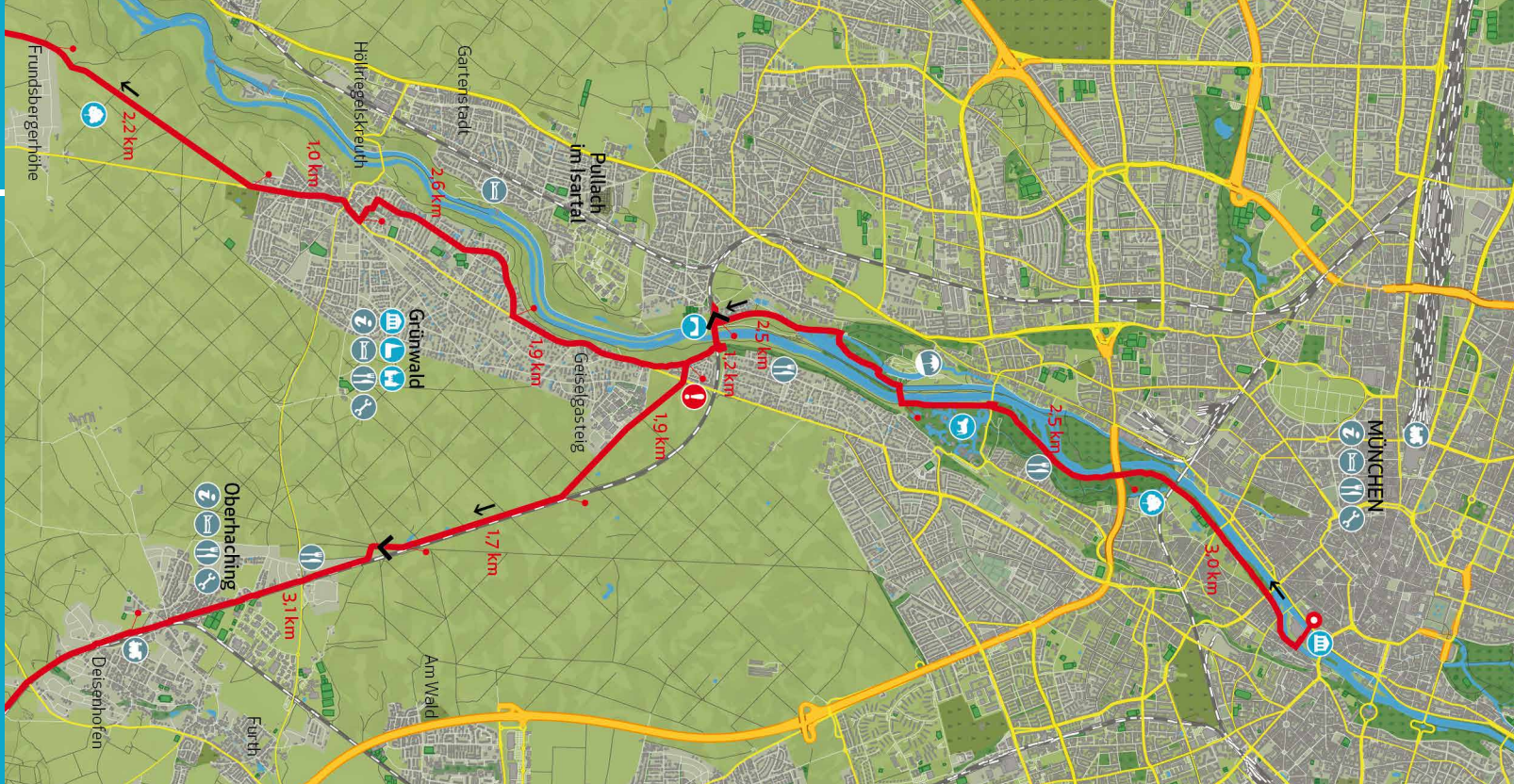
bridge at **km 3.0**. Follow the indications for Tierpark, Hellabrunn, the Munich zoo. Go straight on, amidst all the greenery, in a very relaxing atmosphere, alongside the cool crystal waters that we are following. After the necessary visit to the Bavarian capital of Munich (520 m a.s.l.), you start out from the heart of the city, in front of the impressive building which is home to the Deutsches Museum – science and technology museum – on the so-called Museum Island, in the middle of the Isar.

At **km 5.5**, turn right passing by the Marienklausenbrücke, a cycle-pedestrian bridge which leads to the opposite side of the Isar, then turn left, and right again passing a camp-site, then straight on along Zentralandstrasse and Conwentzstrasse until **km. 8.0**, then you have a steep climb which leads to Großhesselohe Brücke, the railway bridge

The Isar River: clear, cool and green waters

With its transparent, green waters the Isar invites relaxation and a picnic along its banks, many families with children go there, students, people taking their dogs for a walk or doing footing. Locals and tourists can end the warm summer evenings pleasantly in the numerous barbecue areas that are well signed up. There is also the historical Tierpark Hellabrunn zoo on its banks.





over the Isar with a spectacular cycling path which hangs over the railway lines, this takes you to the right bank again. Continue along the cycling path and at **km 8.8** go over the railway lines and then keep to the left along the Hochleite road, until **km 9.2** when you reach the point where the alternative eastern route starts, leading towards Tegernsee [see the eastern alternative].

You carry straight on and after a short while you will find yourself pedalling along a cycling path next to the primary road 2027, until **km 11.1** where you turn right onto Dr. Max strasse which – after taking you in front of a sports centre with tennis courts – leads into the centre of Grünwald (538 m a.s.l.), to Markt Platz, at **km 13.7**. Here there is the impressive XIII century **mediaeval castle** to be seen, this was erected by Ludwig II “the severe”, it is spectacular and in a position which domi-

nates the Isar. It now hosts the Burgmuseum Grünwald, a detached section of the Munich Archaeological Museum. There is also the modern **Church of Saints Peter and Paul** opposite the castle.

From Markt Platz you take the cycling path which runs alongside the Tolzerstrasse and is slightly uphill, then when you reach the large cemetery at **km 14.7**, turn right onto a rough cycling path which winds into the dense and picturesque Grünwald forest. At **km 16.9**, you reach a group of houses – the village of Frundsbergerhöhe – and the path becomes asphalted again for a short stretch, but after 200 metres the dirt track appears again and you return into the woods: this is the triumph of nature; you pedal along the Weg im Esterholz.

At **km 18.1**, you have to be CAREFUL: at a fork a you turn right following the signs for “Isar-

radweg”, then a downhill stretch begins and at **km 18.4** you turn right again. Continue the enjoyable descent amidst the greenery with wide bends on dirt roads (which must be taken with care); at **km 20.4** you reach asphalted road and go right, still going downhill, passing by a pretty isolated church and reaching the left bank of the Isar canal, just near a large lock. Continue along the narrow and



Small isolated church at Strasslach

panoramic canal with some tight bends, until you reach the foot of a bridge at **km 23.5**: you go straight ahead here but it is really worth making a short detour of 1.2 km (one way) – crossing two bridges which are very close to each other, one over the canal and one over the Isar – to reach the **Schäftlarn monastery** which is really worth seeing.

You reach **km 25.9** by continuing along the



The Schäftlarn monastery

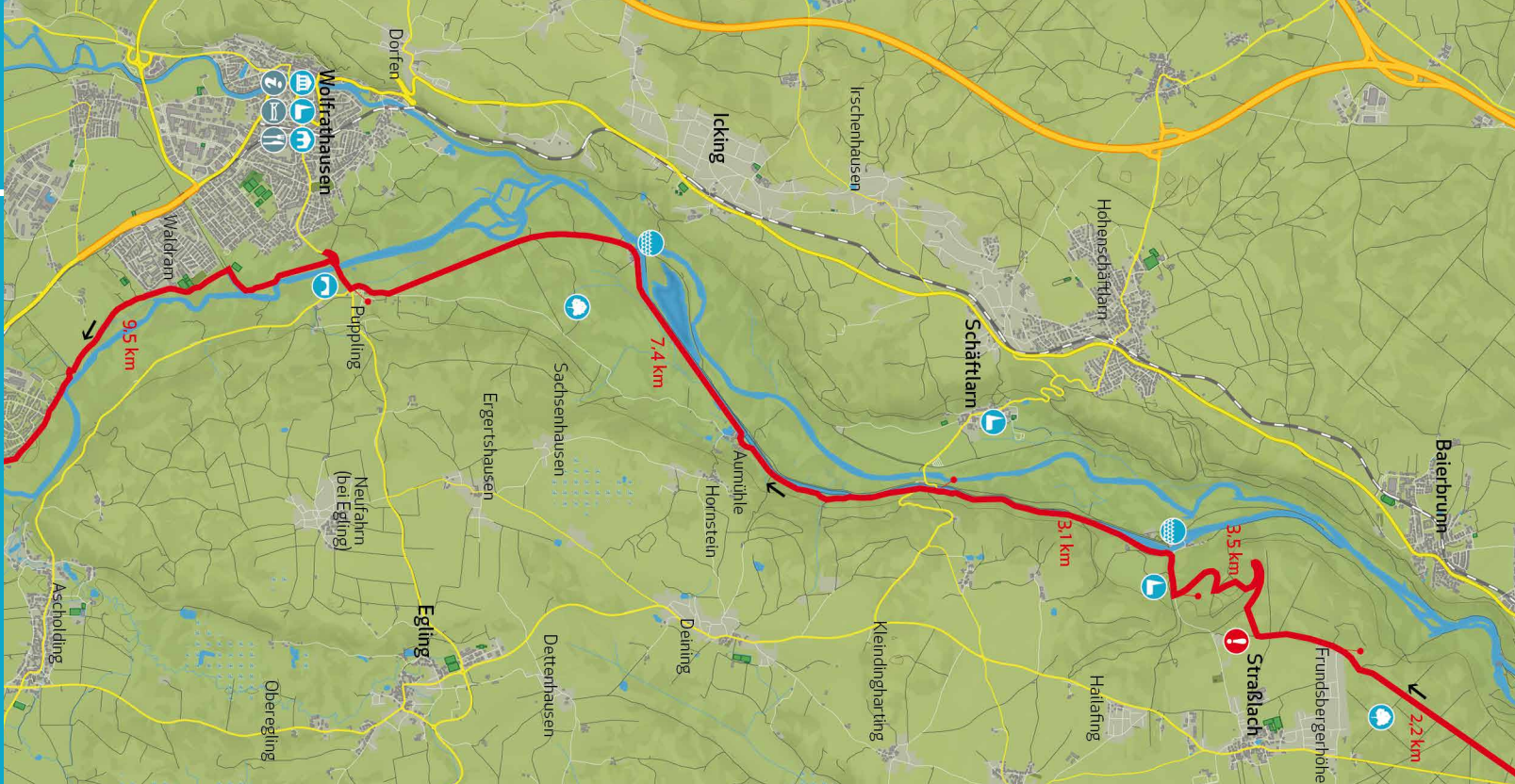
canal on narrow roads with very little traffic amidst the greenery, you are at Aumühle where there is a picturesque bridge covered in wood. First, you pass by a large sawmill and then some fishing lakes, always following the canal bank on a good asphalted road until you reach the Icking lock at **km 28.3**, at the exact point where the Isar canal finishes. There is also an impressive wooden lock here.



Wooden bridge at Aumühle

Schäftlarn Monastery

The Schäftlarn monastery, with its convent church dedicated to the saints Dionysus and Juliana, is one of the main cultural monuments of Upper Bavaria and is still a very lively centre today. The monastery is still inhabited by Benedictine monks; there is a high school inside as well as some shops, restaurants, an open-air beer garden, a sales point for honey and a distillery of spirits. The church is late Baroque from the beginning of the XVIII century and important artists made their contributions to it – Johann Michael Fischer, Johann Baptist Zimmermann and Johann Baptist Straub. More than eighty different kinds of perfumed roses grow in the wonderful garden. The walkway that crosses through it ends at the “Maria Rast” chapel, with a splendid view over the Isar Valley. There is the possibility to sleep and dine there.



Now you go along the Wehrbaustrasse, which crosses another large wooded area of the Pupplinger Au natural area; then at **km 30.9** you turn onto a road and at **km 31.3** you turn right onto a cycling path along the primary road 2070, which immediately crosses the Isar thanks to the wide Marienbrücke. Then you turn right onto a cycling path which goes under the bridge itself, keeping to the right



A raft at Wolfratshausen

bank of the river. Going straight on however, you reach the centre of Wolfratshausen (576 m a.s.l.) with a detour of about 2 km. Wolfratshausen, first mentioned in 1003, obtained permission in the XIII century to hold a market and became strategic for river transport: in fact, here the art of raft transport was developed, connected to the transport of wood and river trading (Tölz beer, salt, minerals extracted from the local mines etc.). The activity of river transport was very florid and made the town rich – known as a city since 1961 -, as can still be seen by the beautiful frescoed houses along the very central **Marktstrasse**. Also the **parish church of St. Andrew** is interesting, with its beautiful Baroque altar, an interesting altarpiece and a picturesque onion dome bell-tower, the **local History Museum**, Untermarkt 10, tel. +49 8171 267838, the eighteenth century **Trinity Chapel** in the

Wolfratshausen: the rafting capital

From May to September, you can live the experience of travelling on a raft just as it was on the Loisach and the Isar for centuries, travelling the 28 km between Wolfratshausen and Munich-Thalkirchen.

The vessel, made up of fir tree trunks tied together, is a perfect reconstruction of those that sailed along the Loisach and the Isar during the past centuries, transporting salt and other local products.

The rafting tradition is kept alive by three families. There is also an orchestra on board and the inevitable barrels of beer...

Wofratshausen forest, where it is possible to see a panoramic view of the mountain crest, the traditional raft excursions. A visit to the fairy tale woods in the Isar Valley is a must for families visiting Wolfratshausen.

When you return to the Marienbrücke bridge, you go under it and continue on a dirt path passing through the suburb of Waldram and the place where you embark on the rafts for Munich, then at **km 33.5** you ride on a narrow metal bridge which crosses the Loisach-Isar canal; then you go by an area with some sports fields and at **km 33.9** you keep left towards Bad Tölz, entering woodland with a lot of benches and rest areas. Then at **km 35.7**, at a crossroad you turn left again; shortly after, the path becomes asphalted again and at **km 37.2** you are at Gartenberg, a suburb of Geretsried. Here you can visit the **City Museum**, the **church of the Holy Family**, the

church of Saint Peter, the Path of Northern History.

You continue along the asphalted Isardamm, on the outskirts of a dense floodplain wooded area and natural oasis, Wolfratshausen forest, characterised by the presence of meanders of the Isar, then you pedal along the narrow Fuchsgraben street and at **km 40.4** you cross a road with heavy traffic (BE CAREFUL!), you turn left at once, still on a dirt road. Instead, going straight ahead you can reach the centre of Geretsried (605 m a.s.l.).

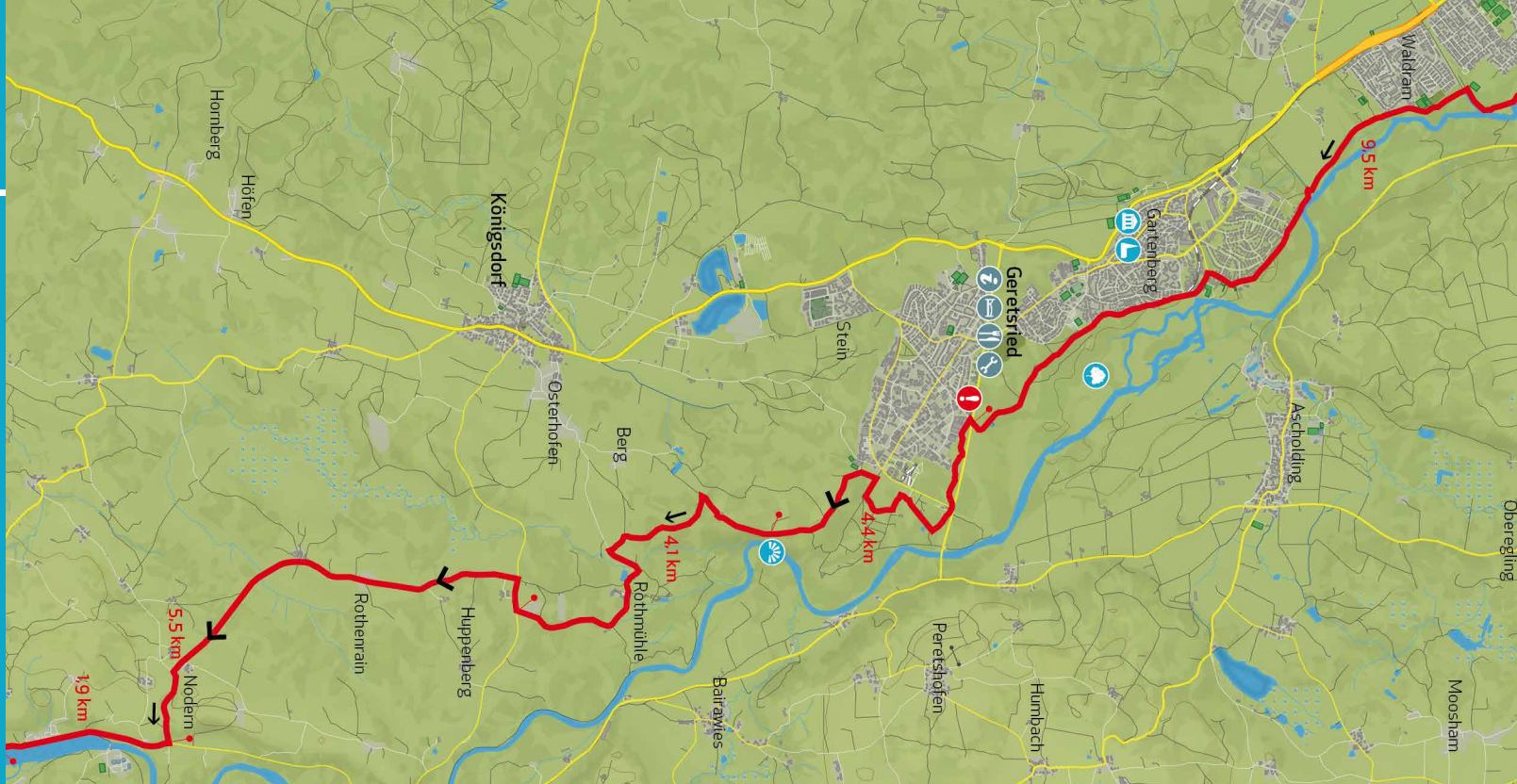
After turning left, the path becomes more winding (PAY ATTENTION to detours): you continue along the narrow dirt road which has the busy 2369 road on the left, then you cross another road, Jeskenstrasse, and there is a slight uphill. After a while the path becomes asphalted and at **km 41.8** you turn left towards Schönlanderstrasse, then after 400

metres you turn left again and then take the first on the right, a dirt road which at **km 42.9** joins the Sudetenstrasse, where you keep to the right and then at **km 43.1** you turn left onto a dirt cycling path.

Keep to the left at **km 43.3** and a serious uphill starts here, this must be taken with due calm. At **km 44.8**, you reach a good panoramic area with a spectacular view of the Isar (there are



Signs along the cycling path



benches here) and just after a steep descent begins, still on a dirt road. You pass a farm and at **km 45.5** be CAREFUL because you have to turn sharp left and return into woodland, still going downhill, then you pass a woodshed and at **km 46.8** turn sharp left, returning to asphalt. In this stretch the valley is wide, panoramic, softened by the presence of beautiful meadows: at **km 48.1** you pass a small bridge and just after the parking lot the road goes to the right, reaching Rothmühle, where there is a large youth centre. Then, downhill, at **km 48.9** you join a road with a lot of traffic, keeping to the right and then at **km 49.3** take the first on the left, going towards Rothenrain. You continue up quite a steep climb, you reach the first houses in Rothenrain and carry on; at **km 51.7**, a pleasant descent starts but then there is another steep climb which at **km 53.4** leads to the hamlet of Nodern; just after you keep

to the left until, still descending, at **km 54.4**, you cross a road and continue to the right on a good cycling path next to the primary road. Here you pedal on the left side of the busy road, then at **km 56.3** the cycle path leaves the road, turning to the left in a very short steep descent that leads to the riverbank; it is a pleasant ride, continuing to underpass the bridge over the Isar at **km 57.6**. A visit

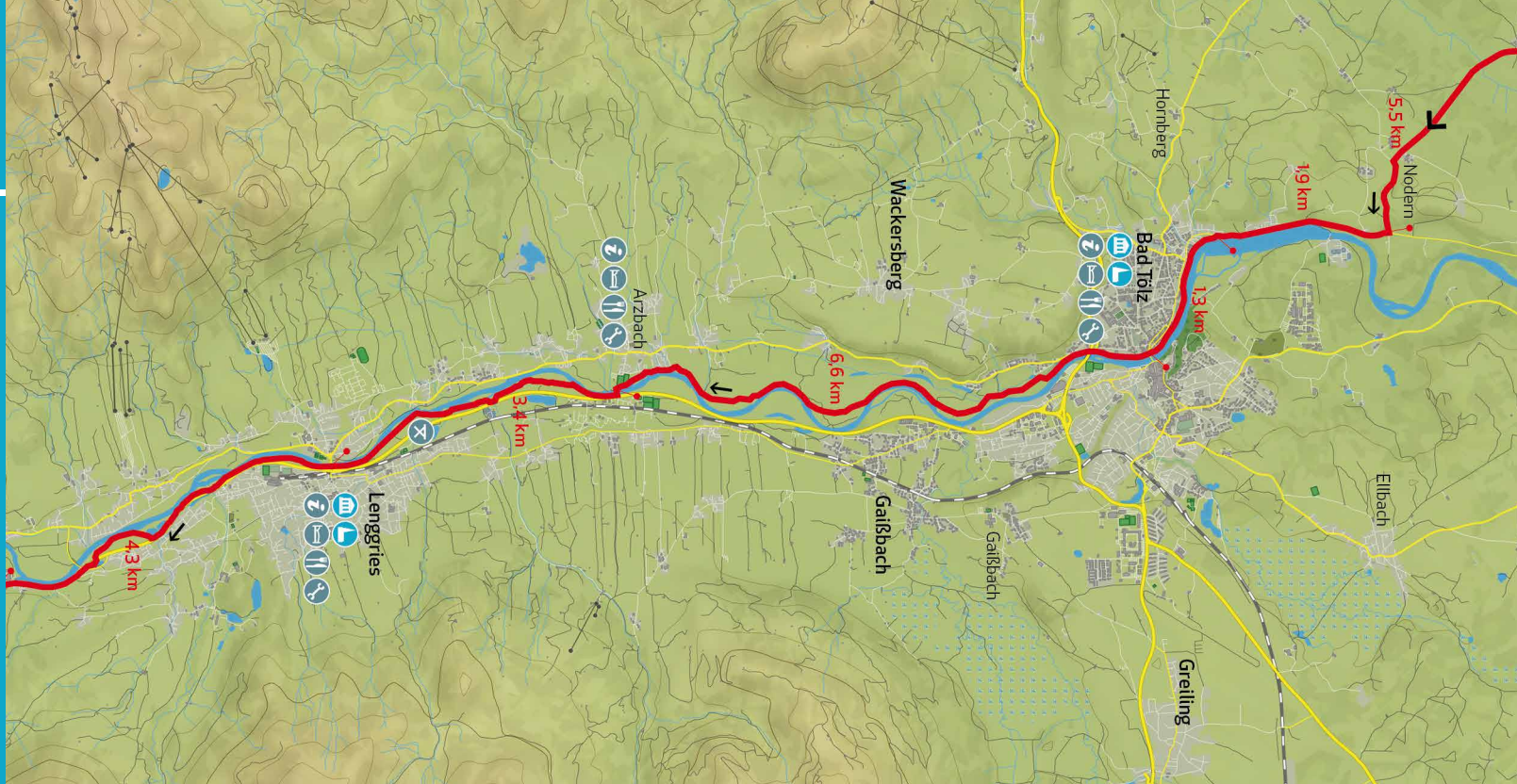


The centre of Bad Tölz

to the splendid city of Bad Tölz (658 m a.s.l.), with its historical centre on the left bank of the Isar is a must ... It was chosen as a holiday resort by Thomas Mann among many others. You shouldn't miss a visit to the thirteenth century **church of The Assumption**, the **Franziskanerkirche** and the **Town Museum**. Continuing along the pleasant asphalted cycling-pedestrian path, at **km 58.4** you go un-



Bad Tölz: Luftl painting technique



der a road bridge and the path immediately transforms into a dirt path, still amidst the green countryside, adapting to the meandering of the Isar, which is particularly appealing due to the deep green colour of the waters which contrast well with the whiteness of its stony beaches. You pedal in a relaxing atmosphere along the floodplain area, so important for its naturalistic contents, until arriving, at



Pedalling along the Isar

km 63.7, near the town of Arzbach and you keep to the left.

Just a short while after, at **km 64.2**, you pass the Isar thanks to a cycle-foot bridge and turn right onto a dirt path along the opposite bank. You go along nicely, until at **km 65.7** you join a busy road for a short stretch (just long enough to pass a stream, but on a cycling pavement) and then you go back on the dirt lane which



The village of Wackersberg

Bad Tölz: tradition, culture and way of life along the Isar River

In the centre of the spa town, full of traditions, at the foot of the Alps there is a unique mixture of city fascination and being close to nature.

Along the historical Marktstrasse, you should see the Baroque facades decorated with the luftl painting technique.

From here, you can discover the narrow streets and the plazas of this ideal town with its inviting cafés, open-air bars and restaurants.

You should also visit Gries – a mediaeval crafts area with a labyrinth of lanes – and Mount Kalvarienberg, from where there is a wonderful panoramic view over the Isar Valley.

at **km 67** leads to the rapids on the river (just near an area set up for picnics) and then you go under the Lenggries bridge (679 m a.s.l.), at **km 67.6**. This place is full of traditions and has a picturesque position along the Isar, surrounded by the mountain paradise formed by the Brauneck and many other panoramic peaks. Tourists, from cyclists, day-trippers to winter sports enthusiasts enjoy every season of this pure nature in a sunny corner of the Isar. From here, you can visit the **Local History Museum**, and the **Church of St. James**.

After visiting the beautiful town of Lenggries, which is the most important centre of the Isarwinkel – an alpine region between Bad Tölz and Wallgau – you continue going up the Isar: at **km 70.6** you pass under a primary road and continue on the independent asphalted path, keeping the road on the right until you reach the small church in the town of Fleck at **km**

71.9 (where there is also a mechanic); at **km 73.4** you arrive in Winkel. Continue until **km 74.1** where you go under the primary road again and continue, keeping to the left.

After a while you start going uphill, on a separate asphalted road, the climb is constant and without any sharp movements, then, quickly one after the other you find a rest area and then at **km 77.1** a column with a mountain goat on top, which you can admire while resting at another strategic rest area.

The itinerary continues slightly uphill and at **km 77.8** you cross to the other side of the primary road thanks to a small bridge. Now the path leads away from the primary road and starts going more decidedly uphill, until you arrive with a last effort, at **km 80.6**, at a short tunnel, which takes us through the mountain. At the exit, you can enjoy the spectacular view of the Sylvenstein Lake (767 m a.s.l.).

It is worth taking a break here, also to get your breath back because the most difficult part is still to come: uphill and mainly on a dirt path, a little broken up in some places ... Nothing dramatic but it is good to know about it. There are about 15 tricky kilometres from here to the border: if you want to avoid this stretch, you can use the primary road (busy but not so difficult), only 7 km along the



The church at Lenggries

northern edge of the lake. We will describe the official itinerary, the one on the dirt road. Once you exit the tunnel you have to pedal for a short distance on the B307 road, there is some heavy traffic (BE CAREFUL), then at **km 82.3** you cross the spectacular arch of the bridge which crosses the lake at its narrowest point and at **km 83.1** turn left, leaving the primary road to enter the small town of Fall, with its beautiful little church.

From the centre of the town you start pedalling downhill again along a good dirt forest road, then at **km 84.9** you pass by a bridge over a stream and immediately afterwards keep to the left, then you pass a barrier and the road starts going uphill quite steeply. Continue amidst the uncontaminated nature, with some counterslopes in a grassy meadowland environment, and then at **km 86.7**, turn right at a fork and pedal once again in a woodland

area, still going uphill. At **km 88.7**, a steep and spectacular descent starts which leads, at **km 89.4**, near the lake and here you turn sharp right; the terrain continues up and downhill and at **km. 90.1** you reach a wonderful panoramic area looking onto the lake. Carrying on you pass a barrier and at **km 91.6** you pass a wooden bridge and just before reaching (with a difficult climb on a rough path) the state road B307, turn right along a road which runs parallel. Continue on this road until you reach the border at **km 95.4**: you are in the exact place where the eastern route meets up with this one.

Arriving in Austria, you continue along the narrow Achen Valley which you will follow until you reach Maurach, after passing through the magnificent Achensee, enclosed by high and spectacular peaks.

The cycling path continues on the left side

Sylvensteinsee, the jewel of the Isarwinkel

The Sylvensteinsee is picturesque artificial lake, 7 km long and 2 km wide, formed in 1954; it is fed by the Isar and various streams. In its turquoise coloured waters there are the reflections of wooded hills and numerous mountain-tops. The bridge that unites the two riverbanks is well known. The cycling paths around this alpine lake offer spectacular views and are highly recommended, as is a refreshing swim with a break on the white gravelly beach.





of the B181 road, slightly downhill, heading towards Achenwald, then at **km 97.3** there is a brief uphill stretch, then at **km 97.6** you leave the road and follow the river, then at **km 98.1** turn right, returning beside the main road. Then, at **km 98.9** turn left, cross the bridge and enter Achenwald (to avoid the difficult climb on the rough road you could carry straight on along the main road until



The border between Germany and Austria

the point where the two itineraries meet up: there are 3.2 km of quite busy asphalted road against 5 km of the official itinerary, almost all on rough roads. You can choose. We will describe the official route, the 5 km one ...).

At the fire station turn right and then right again at **km 99.2**, then go over a little bridge and a steep climb starts, quite difficult. At **km 100.1** turn right and after a short while a pleasant descent starts which leads, at **km 103.6** to the crossing of the bridge over the stream and then you pedal alongside the B181 for about 300 metres. At **km 103.9** you cross the primary road (CAREFUL) and continue straight on, reaching the first houses of Achental. Continuing along the nice secondary road, which runs parallel to the primary road but a couple of hundred metres away, you pedal in a nice residential area, passing through many villages until you reach, at **km**

106.2, the centre of Achenkirch (916 m a.s.l.), which has been a well-known holiday resort for a couple of centuries. Here you can see the **Sixenhof Ethnographic Museum**, the **parish church of Saint John the Baptist**, the fifteenth century **House of Wine**, the **fourteen chapels** spread through the various villages – among which the **Mount Calvary Chapel** with its holy steps – , while you can cross the



Towards Achenkirch



lake thanks to a navigation service. You continue along the road, and then at **km 109.1**, you reach the banks of the lake and turn left passing a small fuchsia coloured bridge to keep on the eastern bank; at **km 109.4** you can see the former Hotel Scholastika. You are now at the foot of the magnificent Karwendel natural park. You continue along the banks of this splendid lake that is 9 km long and 134



The former Hotel Scholastika

metres deep, characterised by the cool temperature of the water. The continuous presence of wind favours nautical sports such as windsurf and sailing.

Then you ride on an asphalted road next to two campsites – every now and then there are some slight undulations, like at **km 110.9** – this follows the banks of the lake offering unforgettable panoramic views. At **km 111.6** you go round a long tunnel and then continue pleasantly until at **km 117.3**, near Buchau, you continue along the lake next to well-manicured lawns and beach areas.

At **km 119.1**, at the southernmost point of the lake, you turn sharp left (going straight on you would arrive in the centre of Pertisau, about 3 km away), at the railway lines and the cycle path heads towards Maurach.

Continue towards Maurach, still next to the railway lines, slightly uphill, at **km 119.6** the

Achensee: in the Fjord of the Alps

The largest bathing lake in the Tyrol, it has earned the title of “Fjord of the Alps” not only for its elongated shape: yachtsmen appreciate the winds, the swimmers the banks which are accessible everywhere and nature lovers the play of colours of the transparent waters. Don’t miss the tour with the oldest European cog railway which is still steam operated from Jenbach to Maurach, on the lake.



cycling path crosses both the railway lines and the regional road, leading to the other side. Then at **km 120.9** you reach the centre of Maurach (950 m a.s.l.), a pretty tourist resort, which is also important in winter, as the cable car leaves from here which goes to Mount Rofan and its extended skiing area. You can also visit the **Ethnographic Museum of Lake Achen**.



Gazing towards the Achensee

We must say that from Maurach you can also take the single gauge train which goes directly to Jenbach, the **Achensee steam railway**, to add something exotic to the journey (and to avoid a stretch of descent which is quite tricky...).

From the centre of Maurach you continue along the Ebenerstrasse leaving the railway on your left, first there is a descent, followed



Erlebniszentrum Tiroler Steinöl Vitalberg centre

Tyrolean petroleum: unique active substances since ancient times

Above Lake Achen, bituminous schist petroleum, used for the production of creams, ointments, lotions and shampoo has been extracted since 1902. If you want to know more about the healing effect, you can visit the Erlebniszentrum Tiroler Steinöl Vitalberg centre, in Pertisau, or try out the pleasure of petroleum compresses, baths or massages. Museum opening hours: May to November, every day, 9-5.30; December to April, 10-4.30.



immediately by a soft climb and then at **km 122.0** you are in the centre of Eben am Achen-see (940 m a.s.l.). Here there is the **church of Saint Notburga** – one of the most beautiful Baroque churches in Tyrol, with interesting frescoes -, where the remains of the saint are kept, there is also the **Museum of Saint Notburga**, which holds the documentation of her life and about the various miracles, like the



Town festival at Wiesing

famous one about the “wood shavings”. At **km 122.1** you cross the railway lines and immediately turn right onto a dirt forest road, on a steep descent: you have to take it with care. You go down in the midst of woodland, with a lot of bends which quickly make you lose height, until at **km 123.9** you go under the primary road B181 and continue on the dirt path, still descending. Then you reach an asphalted stretch, turn left, then right followed by the first on the right to go under the primary road once again at **km 124.7**, still descending. You continue gliding down until you arrive at the beautiful **Church of Saint Martin and Saint Nicholas** dating to the end of the XVIII century, at Wiesing (566 m a.s.l.), at **km 126.2**. Immediately after the church turn right and then take the first on the left – at **km 126.4** – going towards the forest tree nursery; then at **km 126.7** pass under the motorway viaduct

Karwendel nature reserve

On the western bank of the Achen Lake there is the enormous Karwendel nature reserve, which stretches between Tyrol and Bavaria, and is part of the Nature 2000 project, an association of protected European areas. The many paths for walking or for mountain bikes will lead you into contact with the uncontaminated flora and fauna: here, for example, there is the greatest concentration of royal eagles of the whole Alpine area.



and shortly after, still going slightly downhill, also the railway one. Now at **km 127.1**, you arrive on the banks of the river Inn, which you will start following for some kilometres along the cycling path with the same name that runs next to it. Continue following the river, next to the motorway, at **km 129.4** you reach a large sports centre and at **km 129.9** you are under a big bridge: to the right you go towards



Tratzberg Castle

the centre of Jenbach (563 m a.s.l.) and its famous railway station. This is very particular because it has three railway lines with different gauges, normal (1435 mm) of the OBB, the Austrian railways, the metric one (1000 mm) of the Achensee railway and the Bosnian one (760 mm) of the Zillertal railway. In the town centre you can see the Jenbach Museum (www.jenbachermuseum.at), on the history of the mines and metal working. Instead, going straight ahead you continue along the Munich-Venice cycling path following the river Inn towards Innsbruck (reaching the Tyrolean administrative centre after about 35 km). In the town of Stans, a couple of kilometres to the west, it is interesting to see the **Tratzberg Castle** (www.schloss-tratzberg.at), splendid Renaissance work of art which dominates the valley from its position nestled in the rocks.

The railway experience: junction of the Tyrolean railways

From Jenbach a normal gauge railway starts and two cog railways, one towards Achensee and the other towards Zillertal. The first is one of the oldest steam cog railways in the world and in forty-five minutes it gets to the banks of Lake Achen, while on the Zillertal line (32 km long) – you can also enjoy the trip in an open top compartment. Bicycles go for free on the Zillertal line.



INFO

Munich

Tourist information: (Marienplatz 8 – Railway station) tel. + 49.89.23396500,
www.muenchen.de/tam, tourismus@muenchen.de
 Tourist information Landkreis München:
 Mariahilfplatz 17, tel. +49.89.62210
 Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Grünwald

Town information: Rathausstrasse 3,
 tel +49 89 641620,
www.gemein-de-gruenwald.de,
info@gemeinde-gruenwald.de
 Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Wolfratshausen

Tourist information: Marienplatz 1,
 tel. +49 8171 21 40, info@wolfratshausen.de
www.tourismus.wolfratshausen.de,
 Possibility of food and lodging.

Geretsried

Town information: Karl-Lederer Platz 1,
 tel. +49 8171 62980, infor@geretsried.de
www.tourismus.geretsried.de
 Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Bad Tölz

Regional tourist information: Tölzer Land
 Tourismus, Prof. Max-Lange Platz 1,
 tel +49 800 8635937, +49 8041 505206,
www.toelzer-land.de, info@toelzer-land.de
 Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Arzbach (Municipality of Wackersberg)

Town information: Bachstrasse 8, Wackersberg,
 tel. +49 8041.799280, www.wackersberg.de
 Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Lenggries

Tourist information: Rathausplatz 2,
 tel. +49 8042 5008800, www.lenggries.de,
info@lenggries.de
 Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Achenkirch

Tourist information. Achenkirch, im Rathaus
 387, tel. +43 5246 53210
www.achensee.com/tirol/achenkirch, achenkirch@achensee.com
 Possibility of food and lodging.

Maurach

Tourist information: Achenseestrasse 5,
tel. +43 5243 53550, maurach@achensee.com
www.achensee.com/tirol/maurach
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of
mechanics.

Wiesing

Tourist information: Dorf 19,
tel. +43 5244 625100
www.achensee.com/tirol/wiesing,
wiesing@achensee.com
Possibility of food and lodging.

Jenbach

Town information: Silberregion Karwendel,
Münchnerstrasse 11, tel. +43.5242.63240,
www.silberregion-karwendel.com,
info@silberregion-karwendel.com. Possibility of
food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

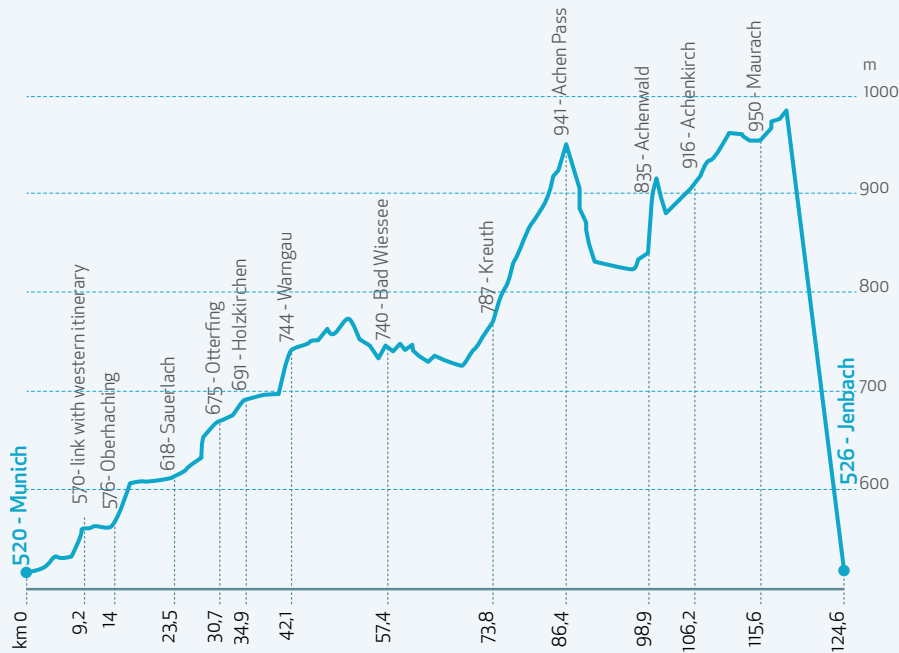


THE WATER EXPERIENCE

Munich-Jenbach 124.6 km
(eastern route)

From the starting point in front of the **Deutsches Museum** you cycle the first stretch of road in common with the western option (see p. 13), until **km 9.2** when you turn left leaving the Isar River and following the cycling signs for “Wasserweg”, which really corresponds to the eastern route of the cycling path Munich-Venice.

This tour will penetrate into some thick forests, then it will lead along the western side of the Tegernsee to the Austrian border,



through the Alpine pass – the Achen Pass; during the descent, right at the border, the two itineraries meet up again.

At **km 9.3** you reach the primary road 2072 which you cross CAREFULLY (there is no traffic light!), then you go straight ahead on a path which is rough at first but becomes asphalt shortly after: you pass the **Bavaria Film studios**, Hollywood along the Isar, with



Kugler Alm: a must see

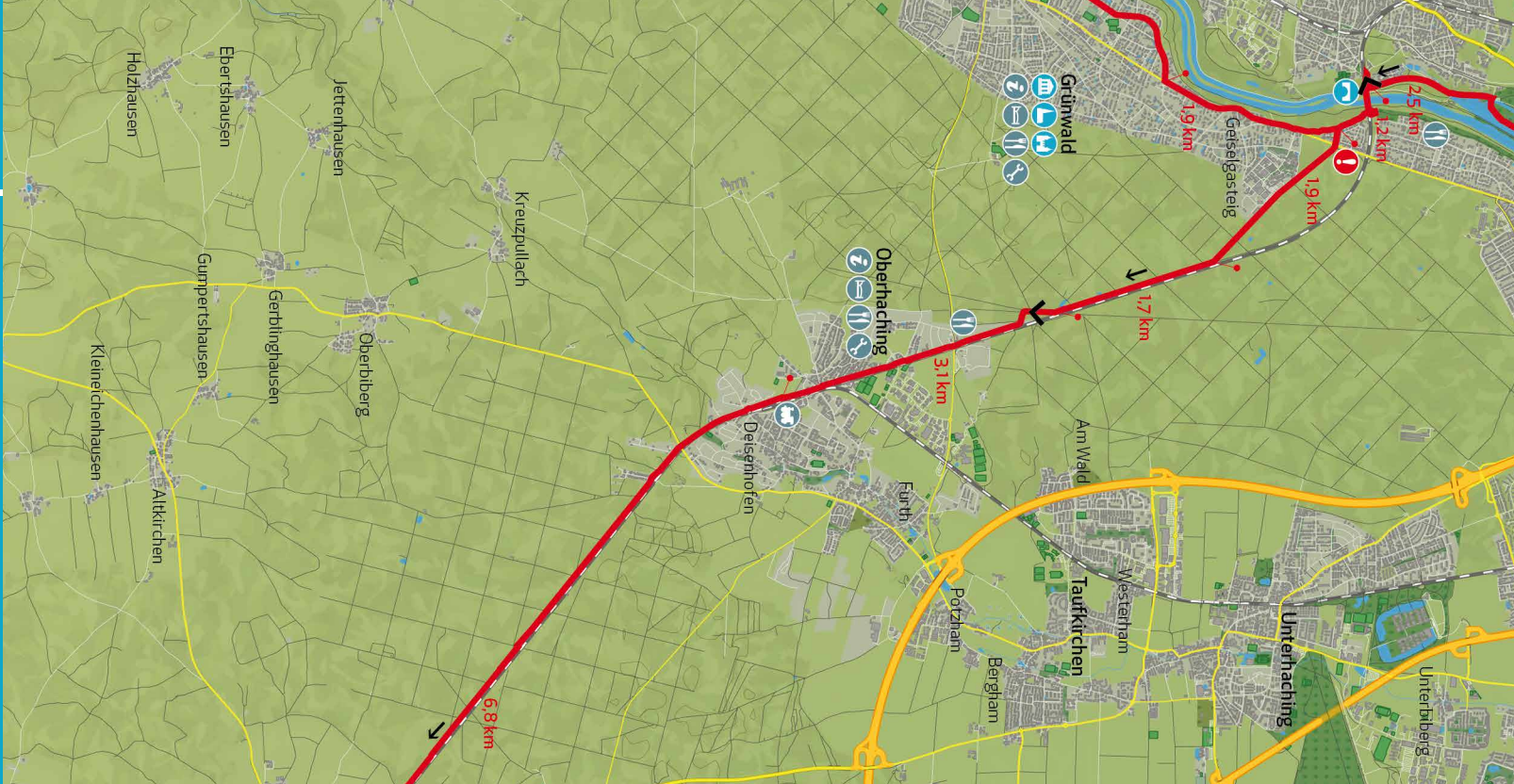
its history full of tradition (there is the possibility to make a visit: www.filmstadt.de) amidst the green of the enormous Perlacher forest.

At **km 11.1** the path reaches the railway following the track ballast and becomes rough once again, until at **km 12.8** it moves away for an uphill climb, then it returns to the railway again and at **km 14.0** you enter the town of Oberhaching (576 m a.s.l.), where you find the famous **Kugler Alm**, the historical brewery where they say Radler was created for the first time, a refreshing beer-based drink with a low alcohol content.

Going straight on, at **km 15.9** you pass in front of the Oberhaching railway station, then you head south keeping the railway on your left, on a rough path and at **km 22.7**, near Sauerlach, turn right into Deisenhofenerstrasse, then at **km 23.2** keep to the right

Kugler Alm: the home of Radler

Would you like some music and a sensational casserole of Alpine ox, cooked in the oven for forty-eight hours? Then the Kugler Alm near Oberhaching is for you, with its open-air beer garden under great chestnut trees. All washed down with Radler, a mixture of beer and lemonade which they say was invented here at the beginning of the twentieth century. There is a big playground for children nearby, at Sauerlach, there are also the beautiful chapels of Saint Ulrich and Saint Ann to see.



into Kirchstrasse reaching Wolfratshausenerstrasse at **km 23.5**, in the centre of Sauerlach (618 m a.s.l.).

Continue along the main street and at **km 23.9** turn right to then take the first on the left, then at **km 24.6** turn left again, pass the railway and turn right immediately, following the track on the rough road. At **km 30.7**, at Otterfing (675 m a.s.l.), pass the railway



Lanzenhaar, Sauerlach: the chapel of St. Ulrich

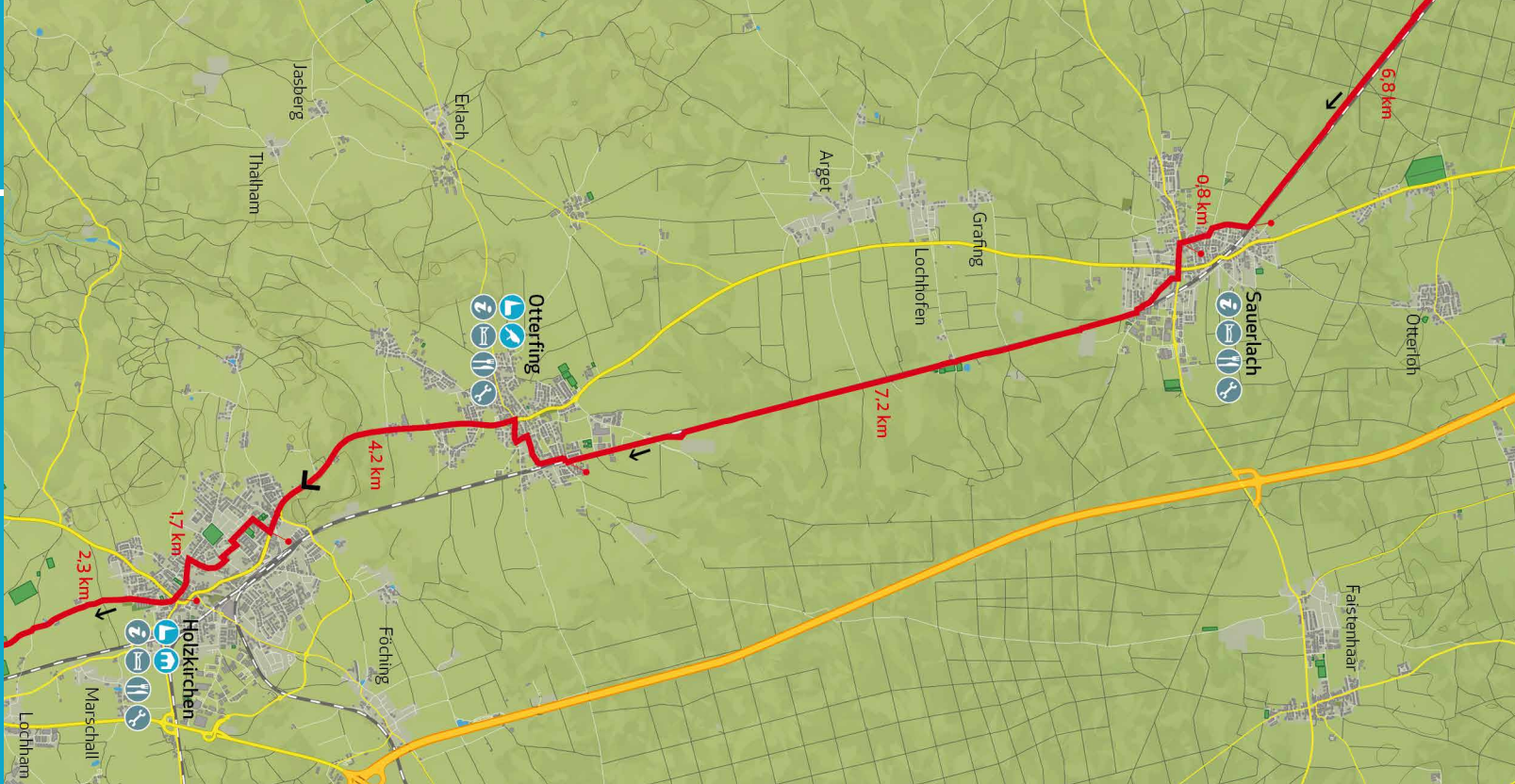
lines turning right and then immediately to the left, then turn right into Bahnhofstrasse; at **km 31.4** turn left for Landkramerweg, then right into Kreuzstrasse, and at **km 31.8** turn left onto the protected cycling path which heads south. In the town you can visit the **parish church of Saint George** and also the **Schlickenrieder Animal Ark** (www.archehof-schlickenrieder.de, an idyllic protected area for species exposed to risk of extinction).

Continue along the cycling path keeping to the right. At **km 33.0**, you find a short steep descent, then at **km 33.6** an uphill one, until at **km 34.9** – already in the beautiful centre of Holzkirchen (691 m a.s.l.) – you leave the main road, going to the right towards Krankenhausstrasse, then left along Marxbauerstrasse. Here you can visit the **church of Saint Lawrence**, which is the oldest in the

town, and the **main square** full of historical buildings. Holzkirchen was a strategic point: the old Roman roads crossed right here, the Augustan road led to Salzburg and another led to Achensee. Still today, Holzkirchen is the richest and most highly populated town in the province.

At **km 35.4** turn left towards Haidstrasse and take the first on the right, then the first on the left and then the first on the right, Am Olivberg, then at **km 36.1** turn left into Roggersdorferstrasse. Going straight on you cross the primary road B13 at **km 36.6** and continue straight ahead on Thannerstrasse. After some metres a cycling path starts on the left which leads out of the town and at **km 37.4** it is on the right hand side.

At **km 38.9**, in the town of Thann, turn sharp left and then at **km 39.2**, at the railway lines, turn right onto a dirt road, which follows the



railway until reaching the centre of Warngau (744 m a.s.l.), and the railway station at **km 42.1**. Just a little further on, turn left into Bahnhofstrasse, cross the railway lines, carry on and just before the crossroad with the primary road keep to the right and at **km 42.7** you pass the B318 using the underpass. Continue following this direction with the road that goes towards the right.



Pedalling along in Bavaria

Pass by a church, turning at **km 43.3**, into Lindenstrasse, then there is a slight climb out of the town, at **km 44.0**, turn left on the primary road and on a cycling path you reach the **Sanctuary of All Saints** at **km 44.5**. Immediately after this turn right towards Reitham, there is a slight climb and at **km 45.2** you reach the centre of this village. At **km 45.5** you go left, downhill, then immediately to your right and continue on gravel road towards Einhaus.

Now there frequent undulations; at **km 47.2** you arrive near the Einhaus church and continue straight ahead until you reach the village of Bernloh. At **km 48.6** turn sharp right onto the primary road towards Schaftlach and then you leave it immediately after turning left towards Bürg. Dealing with some undulations, you pass Bürg at **km 49.6**, then at **km 50.5** you pass under the primary road and

Warngau: Sanctuary of All Saints Protection from the dangers of travelling

A small chapel was erected in this town In the XV century, to protect travellers, merchants and pilgrims from the dangers of travelling. It was enlarged over the years until it became an important Baroque church and after more than five centuries it is still the destination of many pilgrimages. The procession with horse-drawn carriages on St. Lawrence's Day, every year on November 6, is very picturesque and well followed.



descend to reach the village of Festenbach. You join the main road at **km 51.3** keeping to the right, then at **km 52.0**, you leave it turning left towards Rainmühle. At **km 52.6** keep to the left and then cross a stream going straight ahead until you reach Gmund am Tegernsee (740 m a.s.l.): at exactly **km 54.7** you pass in front of the railway station. Located to the north of the lake, Gmund is a



The Tegernsee

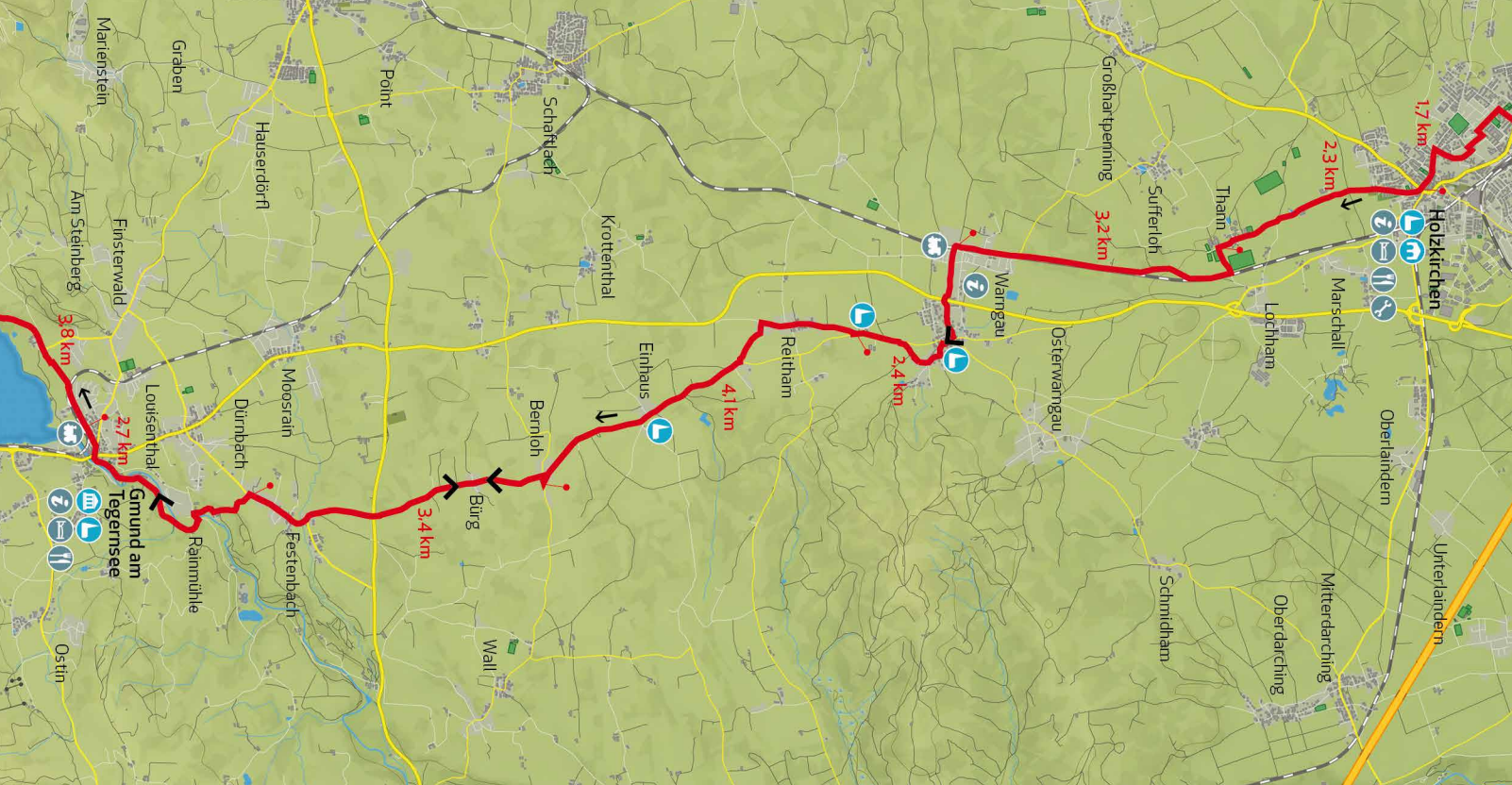
pleasant tourist resort: you can see the **parish church of Saint Giles**, the **Evangelistic church of Saint Saviour** and the **Jägerhaus Ethnographic Museum**. At Gmund there is a navigation service along the lake. You have now reached the banks of the Tegernsee, a remarkable tourist attraction: you must be very careful because there is very heavy traffic. Our route will follow the western bank where the traffic is lighter.

Pedalling beside the B318 you start following the western side of the lake and at **km 55.5** you move to the left side of the road, which is well separated, and the route first of all descends a little and then at **km 57.4**, there is an uphill climb, until you reach the first houses in Bad Wiessee (740 m a.s.l.). Bad Wiessee was already known as a spa resort in 1922 and offers the richest sources of iodine and sulphur in Germany. The town is also

Tegernsee: a fairy tale lake

Various events are organised at Tegernsee every weekend, both traditional fairs and sporting contests or concerts; you will also find fine food here, various inns and refined boutiques. If you feel like going for a swim or even a sauna there is no lack of choice. There is also the possibility to buy the famous Heukäse cheese directly from the local consortium of producers (opening hours: every day from 9 to 5).





well equipped with a very modern casino. At **km 58.5** turn sharp left, downhill, and you reach the lake, pass a barrier and continue along the dirt path on the bank.

You pass the bronze statue of Thomas Mann, continue straight on in a stretch which is evocative and restful with gardens, flowers, fountains and at **km 61.5**, in Sonnenfeldweg, you pass a stream, then you pedal alongside



On the banks of the Tegernsee

the lake until at **km 62.8**, you reach the primary road B318 again, on the cycling path which goes alongside it.

At **km 63.4** you turn sharp left on a dirt road, cross a first small bridge and at **km 63.9**, cross the Weissbach stream, then you reach the panoramic bank of the lake and follow it, passing through the town of Egern. At **km 66.6** at the crossroads between Seestrasse and Haupstrasse, in the centre of Rottach (736 m a.s.l.) you are at the southernmost point of the lake, where the road that comes from the eastern side joins up. At Rottach-Egern, you can see the **church of Saint Lawrence** and the **Carriage and Sleigh Museum**, hosted in a former Benedictine convent.

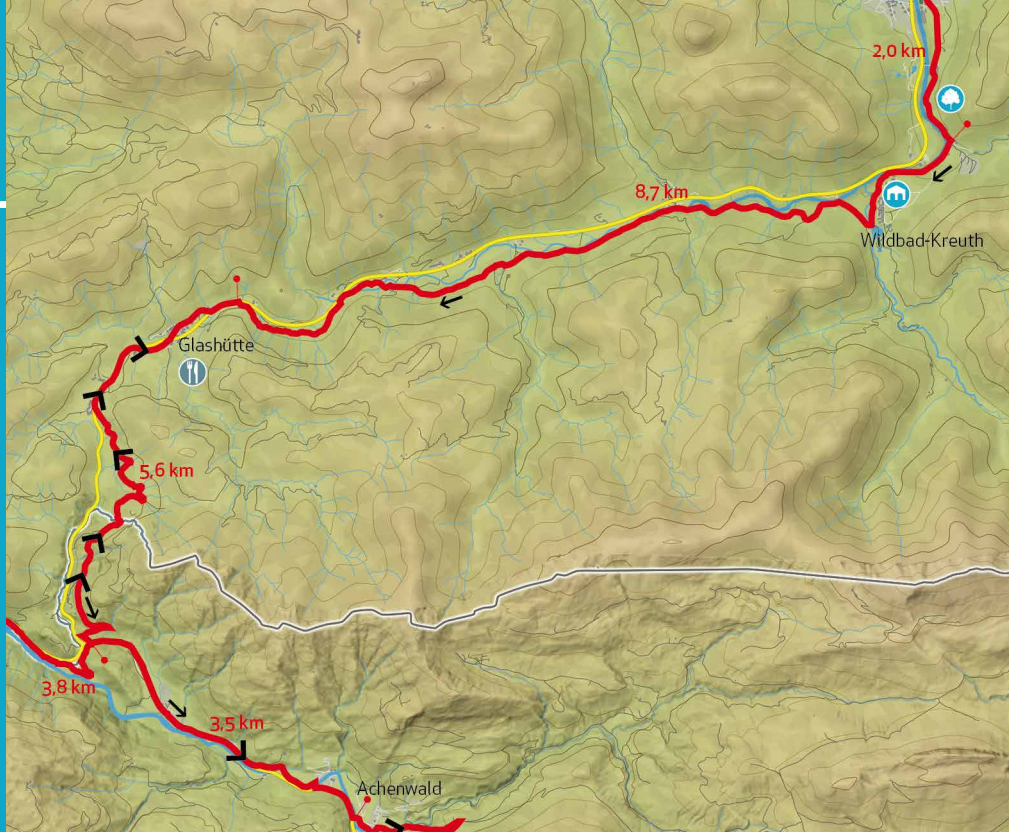
Turning right on the main street you carry straight on, paying attention to the traffic and then at **km 67.0** you turn sharp left into Sonnenmoosstrasse; at **km 68.2** turn left into

Wallberg and Wallbergbahn: the local mountain near the Tegernsee

The Wallberg is a mountain that looks onto the Tegernsee; you can reach its peak on foot or by using a difficult mountain-bike path, or also using the convenient cable car that leaves from Rottach-Egern. From here, you can enjoy the magnificent panorama, which stretches from Großglockner to Munich, and with a bit of luck you can admire the majestic royal eagles. Cable car times: from 8.45 to 4.30.







Glaslstrasse, then at **km 68.8** turn left onto Karl Theodor Strasse and then at the next crossroads turn right towards Kappellenweg, then left again. Shortly after there is a short steep upward climb and then you enter a beautiful woodland on a natural based road. Riding next to Weissbach, at **km 73.8** you reach Kreuth (787 m a.s.l.), fully emerged in natural beauty. Its seventeen villages are



A nice cold beer

stretched along an area which goes from the banks of the Tegernsee to the mountains: Kreuth is the southernmost village in the Tegernsee Valley, it is near the Austrian border and is a popular Alpine tourist resort. Continue pedalling alongside the interesting **Spa Park**, then the cycling path becomes gravel and enters into woodland, uphill; then it becomes asphalted again, but at **km 75.8** you



Pedal then relax...

cross a small bridge and the road becomes gravel again. Shortly after, you reach the tourist resort of Wildbad Kreuth, a spa resort built into the mountains where there is the old XVI century **spa building**, which welcomed many famous guests, among whom various Tsars and Emperor Franz Joseph. At **km 77.1** you turn right, crossing a bridge, then at **km 77.7** you meet up with the Weissbach river again (without crossing it) and you pedal alongside it on a dirt path which goes decidedly uphill in a beautiful mountain panorama.

At **km 84.5**, you reach the B307 after crossing the river; now you continue on a cycling path next to the road, arriving at Glashütte at **km 84.8**. Passing the small restaurant turn left at **km 85.1**, crossing a bridge, and at **km 85.3** you pass under the primary road. Then there is a steep uphill climb and you join the

road again to reach, still climbing, the Achen Pass peak (941 m a.s.l.), at **km 86.4**.

You turn left here on a forest road going downhill, at **km 88.2** you enter Austria, while at **km 90.1** you reach the intersection with the route coming from the west.

For the remaining 34.5 km from here to Jenbach see the description on pp. 25-33.

INFO

Oberhaching

Town information: Alpenstrasse 11,
tel. +49.89.613770, www.oberhaching.de,
redaktionsteam@oberhaching.de
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a
mechanic.

Sauerlach

Town Information: Bahnhofstrasse 1,
tel. +49.8104.66460, www.sauerlach.de,
gemeinde.sauerlach@sauerlach.bayern.de
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a
mechanic.

Otterfing

Town information: Münchnerstrasse 13,
tel. +49.8024.906322,
www.otterfing-tourismus.de,

ingrid.eder@otterfing.de
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a
mechanic.

Holzkirchen

Tourist Information: Marktplatz 2,
tel. +49.8024.642320,
www.holzkirchen-tourismus.de,
schmitze@holzkirchen.de
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of
mechanics.

Warngau

Town information: Taubenbergstrasse 33,
tel. +49.8021.901512,
www.warngautourismus.de
wwagner@warngau.de

Gmund

Tourist information: Wiesseerstrasse 11,

tel. +49.8022.7060350, www.gmund.de,
gmund@tegernsee.com
Possibility of food and lodging.

Bad Wiessee

Tourist information: Lindenplatz 6,
tel. +49.8022.86030, www.bad-wiessee.de,
badwiessee@tegernsee.com
Possibility of food and lodging.

Rottach-Egern

Tourist information: Nördliche Hauptstrasse 9,
tel. +49.8022.673100, www.rottach-egern.de,
rottach-egern@tegernsee.com
Possibility of food and lodging.

Kreuth am Tegernsee

Tourist information: Nördliche Hauptstrasse 3,
tel. +49.8029.9979080, www.kreuth.de,
kreuth@tegernsee.com

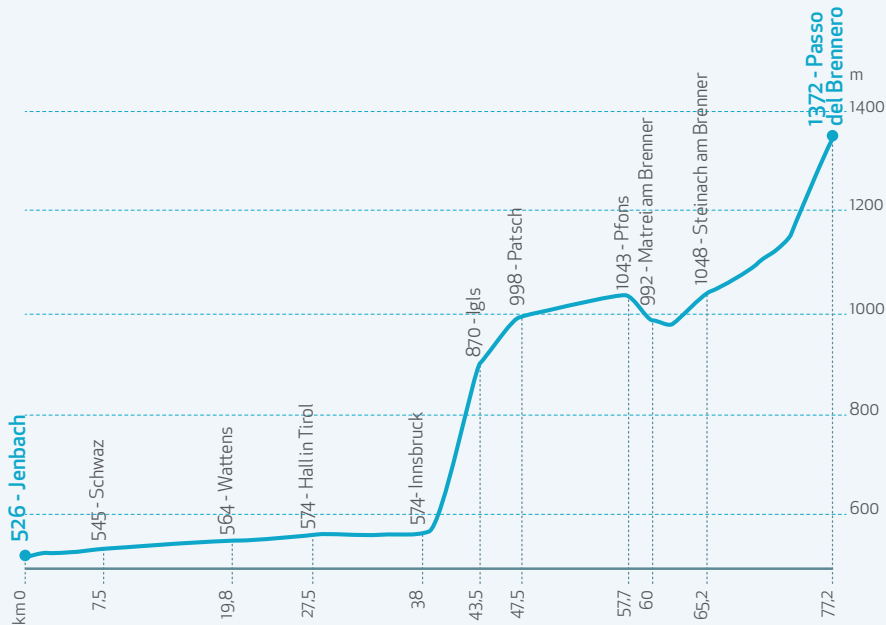


THE TREASURES OF TYROL

Jenbach-Brenner Pass 77.2 km

The Tyrolean mining industry, but also many cultural and natural treasures along the route, are the protagonists of this stretch of the Munich-Venice cycling path. From the starting point at Jenbach, in the Inn Valley, you pass through wonderful cities full of history and monuments like Schwaz, Hall-Wattens and Innsbruck, going up to Tyrolean Wipptal, then you arrive at the border with Italy, the Brenner Pass.

Both adults and children will be thrilled by



the Zillertal narrow gauge railway excursions or by the journey into the shining world of Swarovski crystals. Your adventurous spirit will awaken with Münze Hall, while the Wolfsklamm gorge guarantees a wild and romantic experience.

Once you reach Innsbruck, with its legendary Goldenes Dachl (Golden roof) and the Imperial Palace, then the high point of modern architecture appears - the Mount Isel Olympic Trampoline. Innsbruck has been a university city since 1669 and today hosts 24,000 students from all over the world, they bring a breath of fresh air and liveliness to the Alpine capital.

The Tyrolean Wipptal forms the natural landscape from Tyrol to Alto Adige and offers other very different treasures: on the left and the right of the main valley, numerous Alpine pastures offer marvellous views of the surrounding mountains, as well as extraordinary gastro-

nomie experiences in the mountain retreats and huts. For example, in the upland plain of Nösslach, at Gries, a themed itinerary shows the history of coal mining in Tyrol.

Starting from the Jenbach railway station (563 m a.s.l.) you immediately reach the left bank of the Inn and you go upstream on a nice asphalted cycling path to Innsbruck: it is the Inn cycling path, which goes from Engadina in Switzerland, to Passau, where the river flows into the Danube, covering over 500 km. This route is used a lot by cycle-tourists and European travellers, in this stretch which leads to Innsbruck it is flat and very panoramic.

For the first kilometres you pedal alongside the motorway, then at **km 4.7** – crossing a small bridge which crosses a tributary of the Inn – you come across a detour on the right which heads to Stans (there is the possibility of food

Wolfsklamm Gorge: an evocative natural monument

The Wolfsklamm Gorge is one of the most beautiful in the Alps: it weaves its way among savage mountains, noisy waterfalls and emerald coloured waters as well as numerous wooden footbridges and along the 354 steps which lead up it you can enjoy a breath-taking view. You leave from the small town of Stans to reach the Saint Gergenberg monastery, the oldest pilgrimage destination in the Tyrol. On the thirteenth day of each month, from May to October, there are evocative nighttime pilgrimages.

51



and lodging, presence of mechanics), but the route carries straight on.

Continuing along the river, you reach the foot of a big church at **km 7.5** – the **Spitalskirche** – and a bridge: you are at the entrance to the splendid city of Schwaz (545 m a.s.l.). Cross the bridge and go to visit it: it is really worth it. Schwaz is famous for its silver mines, for centuries it played an important role in Tyro-



The historical centre of Schwaz

lean history and its houses reflect the degree of wealth of its inhabitants. The fifteenth century **parish church of Saint Mary of the Assumption** (with two bell-towers) and the **Fuggerhaus**, the home of the famous Fugger bankers. The **Contemporary Art Gallery** is very interesting – located in the historical **Enzenberg Palace** – and the **silver mine**, it was the largest in Europe during Mediaeval times. Returning to the river you continue pedalling in tranquillity: now the valley is spacious, at **km 10.6** you pass through the centre of Altmahd, then at **km 12.0** you pass under the motorway and continue, passing, at **km 12.6**, the beautiful Weisslahn lake, near the town of Terfens (591 m a.s.l.), at the foot of the Karwendel mountains. Its name, of Celtic origin, means “oak woods”.

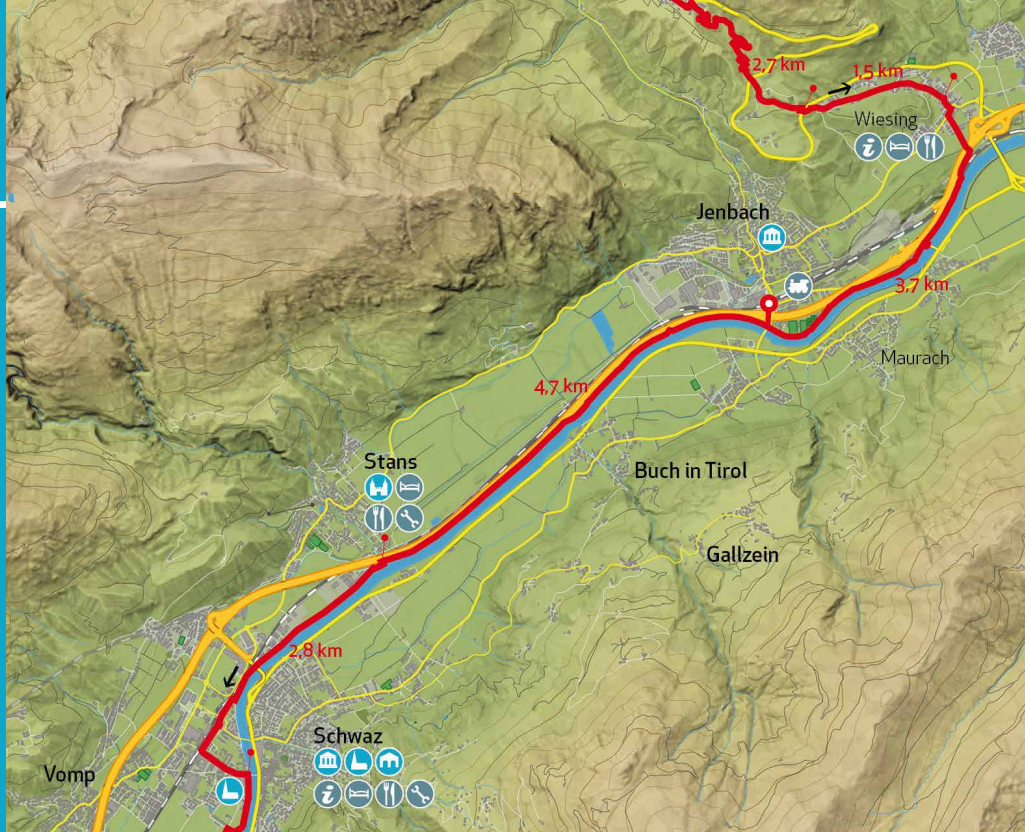
Continue and at **km 14.5**, you pass in front of the Terfens-Weer railway station, then turn

The Weisslahn swimming lake: diving with a view over the mountains

From the cycling path you can take a relaxing break at the Weisslahn lake, south of Terfens. It is surrounded by meadows and is equipped with trampolines, areas for children, platforms, a lot of sports fields and eating-places. You can fish there too (permit can be had at the fishing kiosk). Opening hours: all year, swimming with entrance from May to September.

52





The Swarovski crystal worlds: brilliant magic

The Swarovski crystal worlds in Wattens – one of the most visited attractions in Austria – has sparkled new light since 2015 thanks to the innovative children's play tower, the gigantic fluctuating crystal cloud and some artistic installations which are unique in the world as well as to the renewed 'chambers of wonder'. Visitors will continue to find classical and culinary shows as well as children's workshops. Opening hours: every day, 9-6.30.

53



left and at **km 15.0** you reach the bridge over the river Inn: cross it and pass on to the opposite side. At **km 15.7** turn left, at **km 16.6** turn right, then right again and at **km 17.8** turn left, until you return, at **km 19.1**, along the Inn near the beautiful centre of Wattens (564 m a.s.l.).

Cross Wattens, turning left at **km 20.4** (keep the ÖAMTC, the Austrian Automobile Club



The church of St. Charles at Volders

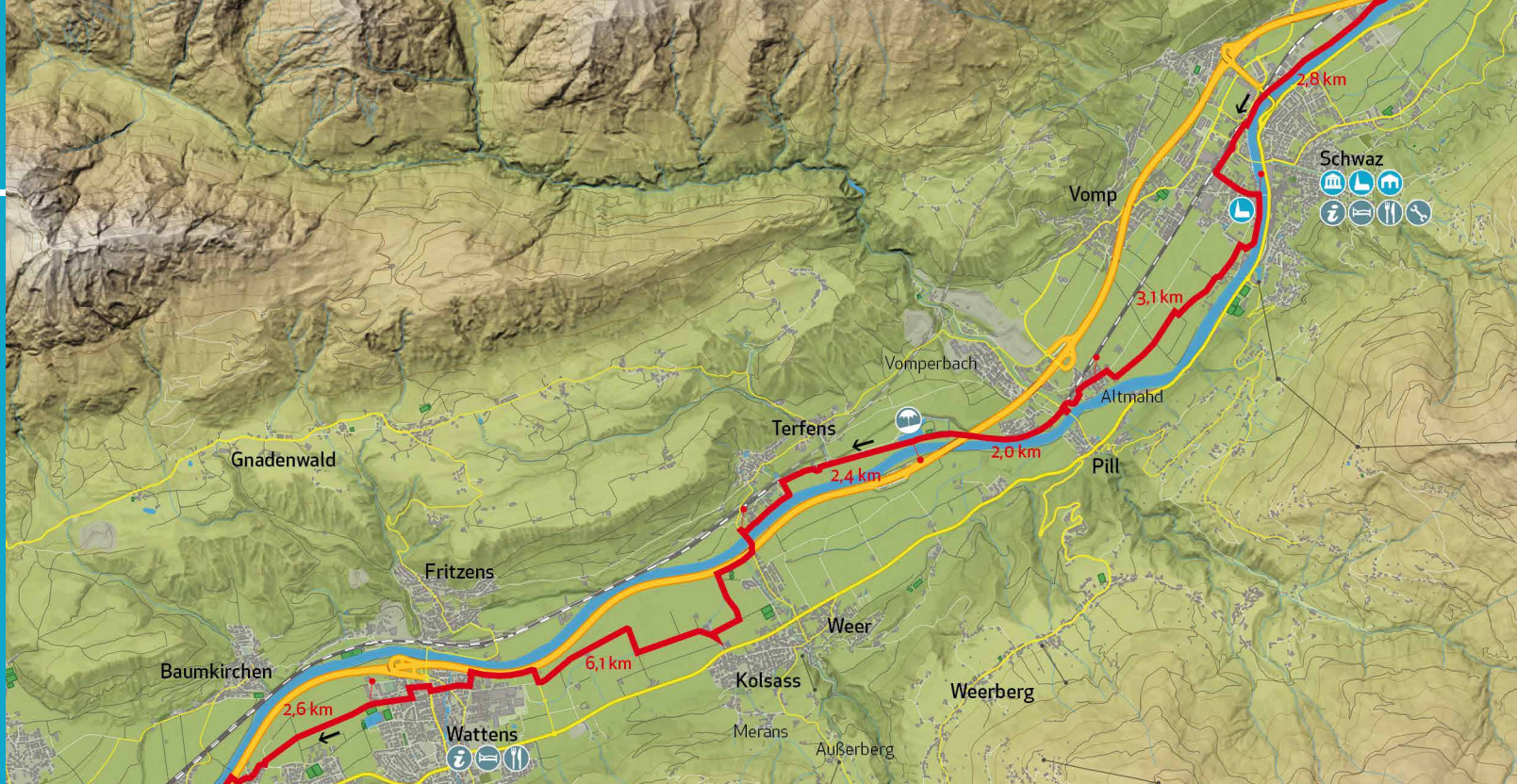
on your right), then at **km 21.1** leave a sports field on your left and continue through farmed fields and many greenhouses. You have arrived near the town of Volders (558 m a.s.l.) and you can make out the silhouette of its castle. At **km 23.0**, turn right passing under the motorway and you return to pedalling next to the water, at **km 23.7** you pass in front of the **church of Saint Charles**, one of the most beautiful in Roco style in the whole of Tyrol.

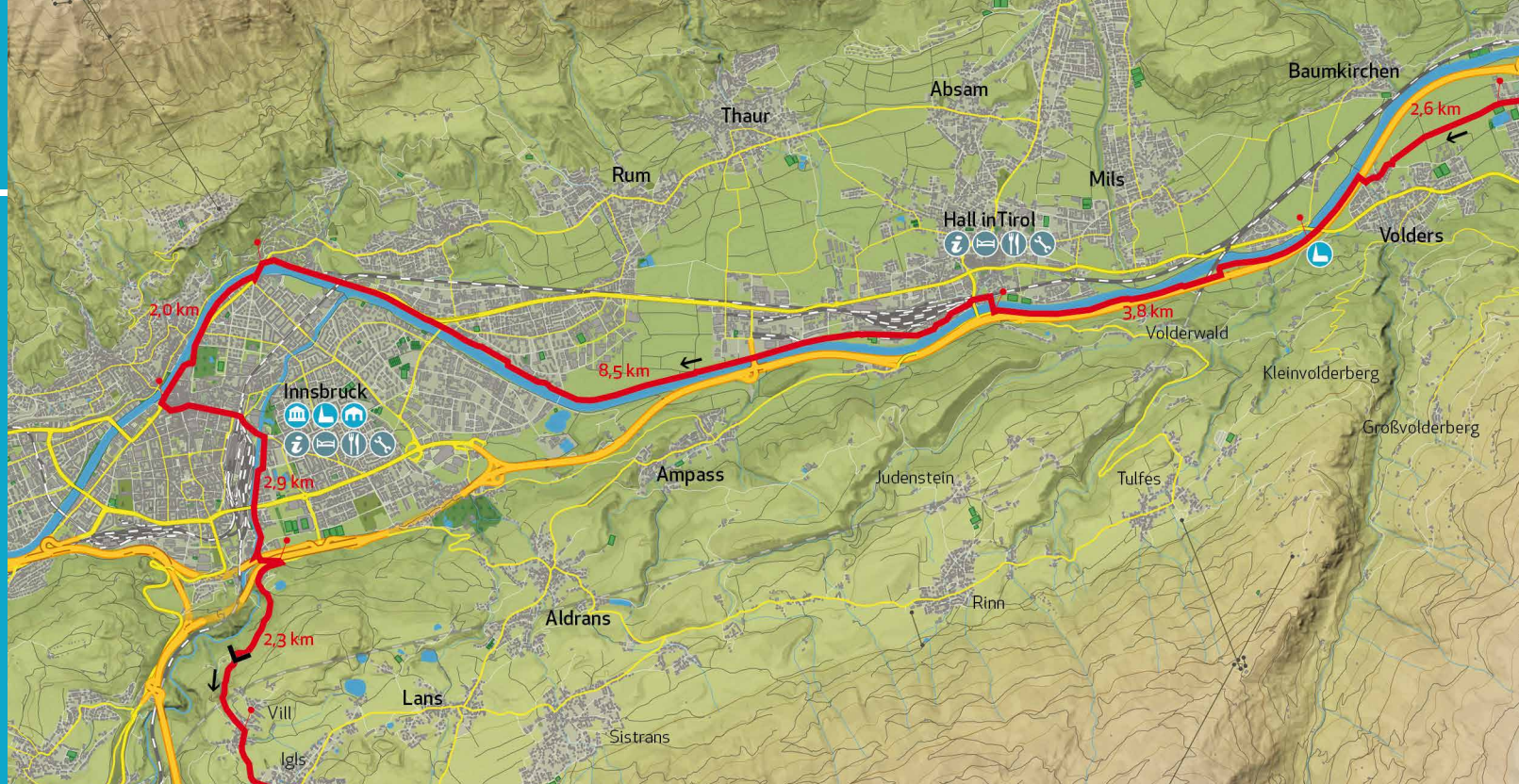
Then at **km 25.0** you pass under a railway bridge and at **km 27.5** you ride across the beautiful bridge which crosses the Inn at Hall in Tyrol (574 m a.s.l.), this town made its fortune with salt, to the point of being the most important economic centre in Tyrol. Its splendid mediaeval historical centre is one of the most characteristic and best preserved in the entire Tyrol. Crossing the beautiful wooden bridge, the cycling path continues to the left, you then pass

Münze Hall & Münzerturm Museum: the cradle of the dollar

More than five hundred years ago, Sigismund Francis of Austria-Tyrol, bishop of Augsburg, moved the mint to Hall and it was here that the first taler, the ancestor of the modern dollar, was coined. With the help of an audio-guide, the staff at the mint tell the visitors about the birth of this coin, showing the enormous and – for those times – innovative press used to coin it. You shouldn't miss a visit to the Münzerturm, the emblem of Hall, where you can enjoy a spectacular view over the Inn. Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10-5, closed from January to mid-March.







the Hall industrial area. At **km 29.6** you cross the railway lines, turning left onto a narrow path, then at **km 30.4** you pass under the motorway and carry straight on. You are now pedalling in a very green area; at **km 32.5** an aquatic park appears and then you continue in a pleasant area on the outskirts of Innsbruck, among a lot of parks and gardens. At **km 36.0** you cross the Inn thanks to the Mühlauer



Innsbruck

Brücke, on a cycling path, then you turn right and continue along the opposite side of the river, reaching a nice wooden footbridge over the Inn. Continuing to pedal alongside the river, at **km 38.0** you arrive at **Marktplatz** and turn left entering the heart of the city.

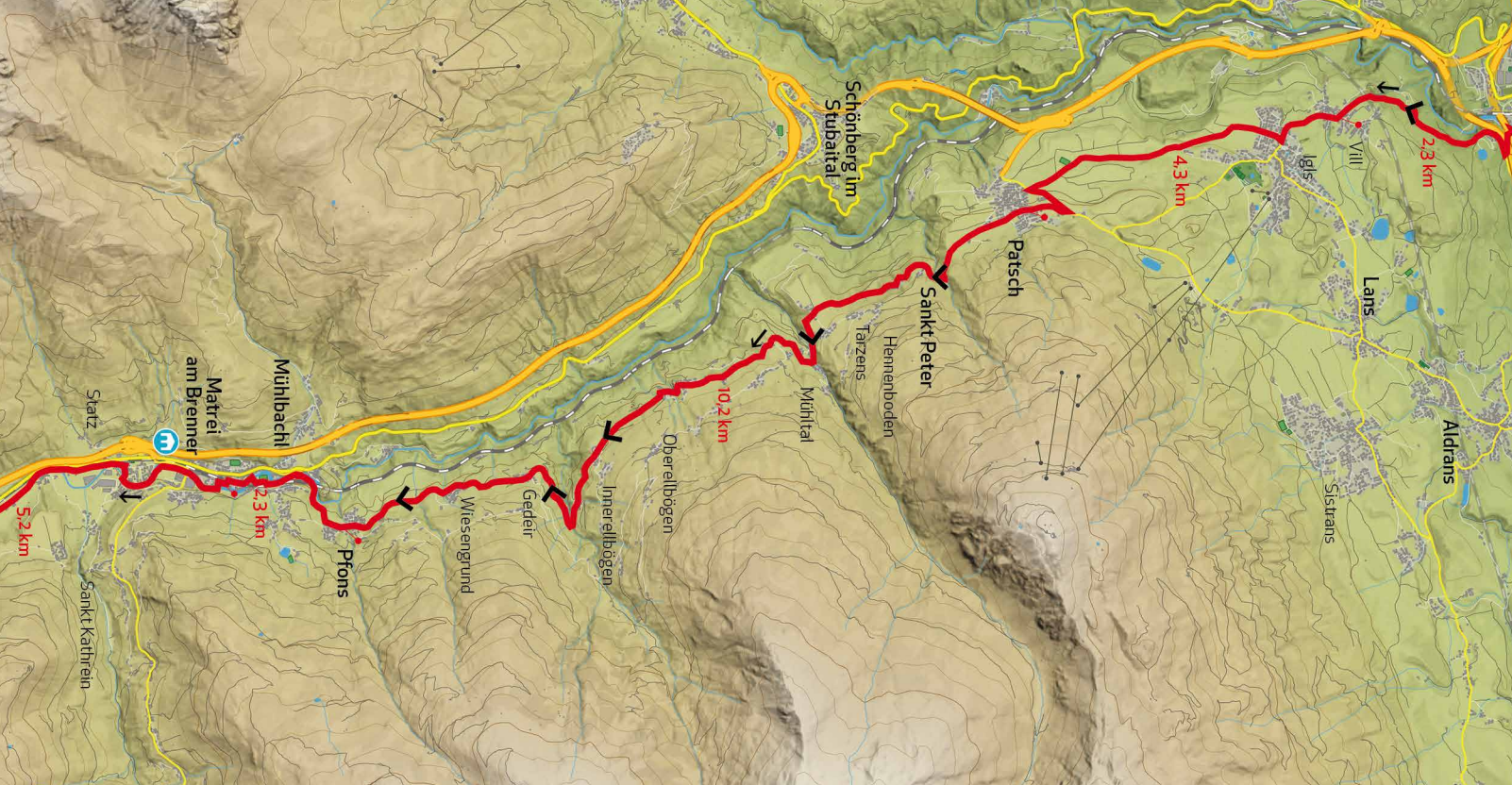
After visiting Innsbruck (574 m a.s.l.) you have a climb waiting for you along the Wipptal until the Brenner Pass (1372 m a.s.l.). Really, we recommend this route only to the most convinced and willing cyclist: there are 39 km uphill, with over 1000 metres height difference, all this not on protected cycling paths but mixed traffic roads, the last 10 km along the primary Brenner road. You decide: it is undeniable that the splendid panorama and the huge satisfaction that you experience getting to the top of the climb can justify the effort.

We advise all the others to take the train (Innsbruck central station, Südtiroler Platz

Goldenes Dachl (Golden roof)

Kaiser Maximilian I (1459-1519) left many traces in Innsbruck, among which the **Golden roof**, the emblem of the city, on the facade of the Palace of the Counts of Tyrol. It is covered by 2657 fire-gilded copper tiles, and it seems that you can almost touch them with your hand; another art treasure that you shouldn't miss is the Imperial **Hofburg**, from 1350, which now shines in its Baroque style. Goldenes Dachl opening hours: May-September, Monday-Sunday, 10-5; October-April, Tuesday-Sunday, 10-5.





7, tel. +43 51717) to the Brenner Pass (the trains are frequent, the journey lasts about forty minutes and it is easy to take your bike with you in Austria), from here you pick up the splendid Italian cycling path which leads towards Vipiteno, Fortezza, Bressanone and the Puster Valley. Another alternative is offered by the line 6 tram. For those who want to tackle the climb and the busy road, you can



Pedalling along the Wipptal

start from the point where you arrived, that is in Marktplatz, at **km 38.0**, then continue along Museumstrasse and cross the bridge over the Sill River at **km 39.2**. You then turn right and continue up this river that descends from the Brenner. At **km 40.5**, you pass under a big motorway viaduct near the impressive Olympic trampoline in Innsbruck. Then at **km 40.9** you turn right onto Ingler-



The Olympic trampoline at Innsbruck

The Olympic trampoline on Mount Isel: the sporting symbol of Innsbruck

The famous Olympic trampoline in Innsbruck, where the winter games were held in 1964 and 1976, is a structure, which was built in the 1930's but was recently restored, in 1921, by the architect Zaha Hadid.

This English superstar architect of Iraqi origin has given a dreamlike image to the structure, which is topped by the panoramic restaurant Bergisel Ski. An unforgettable lunch!

Opening hours: June-October, every day, 9-6; November-May, Wednesday to Monday, 10-5.



strasse and start climbing slowly but relentlessly. At **km 43.2** you pass Vill and shortly after Igls (870 m a.s.l.). At **km 47.5**, you pass through the centre of Patsch (998 m a.s.l.) with continuous ascents and descents you proceed along the ancient salt road, which from Hall in Tyrol led to Matrei am Brenner, along the eastern part of the Wipptal. At **km 57.7** you pass Pfons (1043 m a.s.l.), then at **km 60.0** you are in



The Laponesalm alpine farmhouse

The Navis Valley: twelve pastures in the Sun Valley

Along the “Naviser Almenrunde”, a 15 km long path in the Navis Valley, you can visit some splendid alpine summer houses. A forest road, leads first to Peeralm, then you reach Klamalm, then you arrive at the Polten house and then the Stöcklalm, from where you can enjoy the panoramic view over nearly all the alpine summer houses and surrounding mountains. It is possible to eat in all the alpine summer houses.

Maria Valdrast Monastery: plateau at the foot of the Serles

The Maria Waldrast monastery is set in a beautiful valley basin at the foot of the Serles (2718 metres); it is the highest pilgrimage destination in Tyrol (1641 metres). The site has a restaurant and can be reached by bike or car from Matrei

am Brenner using a well asphalted toll road about 6.5 km long. Touristic and thematic paths around the monastery lead to the natural and cultural environment (Ochsenalm) and up to the top of the Serles, the altar of Tyrol.

Gschnitztal: the Laponesalm alpine farm house

Towards the end of the Gschnitztal, a side valley of the Wipptal, there is the village of Gshnitz, surrounded by splendid meadows and crystalline streams. Among the various walks, we recommend the one that starts at Mühlendorf with the Sandes waterfall and leads to Laponesalm, where you can taste the Tyrolean gastronomic specialities while enjoying a marvellous view over the valley. Opening hours: mid-May-end of October. At Steinach am Brenner, there is also the spectacular downhill cycling park, Bikepark Tirol with a structure for going back up.

the lovely little city of Matrei am Brenner (992 m a.s.l.), with its beautiful decorated houses. Here side valleys open up like the Stubai Valley, the Navis Valley and the Gschnitztal.

You are now very close to the Brenner primary road but on a parallel road which permits you to keep the primary road to your right. At **km 65.2** you pass through Steinach am Brenner (1048 m a.s.l.) along the Sill River: here you join up with the Brenner primary road that in about 12 km, exactly at **km 77.2**, leads to the Brenner Pass (1372 m a.s.l.). From here, you will start gliding down from the splendid alpine peaks, through the Dolomites, towards the Adriatic: our goal, Venice, is closer now.

INFO

Schwaz

Tourist information: Silberregion Karwendel, Münchner Strasse 11, tel.+43.5242.63240, www.silberregion-karwendel.com, info@silberregionkarwendel.com
Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of mechanics.

Wattens

Tourist information: Dr. Felix Bunzl Strasse 1, tel. +43.5224.52904, www.hall-wattens.at, office@hall-wattens.at
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Hall in Tirol

Tourist information Hall-Wattens Region: Wallpachgasse 5, tel.+43.5223.455440,

www.hall-wattens.at, office@hall-wattens.at
Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of a mechanic.

Innsbruck

Tourist information: Burggraben 3, tel. +43.512.59850, www.innsbruck.info, office@innsbruck.info
Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of mechanics.

Steinach

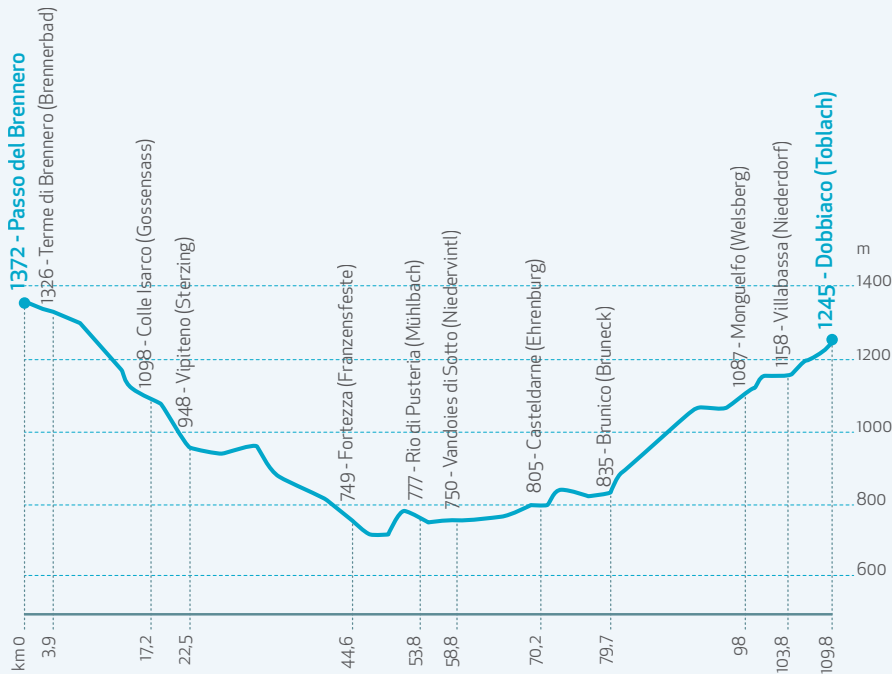
Tourist information: TVB Wipptal, Brennerstrasse 67, tel. +43.5272.6270, www.wipptal.at, tourismus@wipptal.at



AN ALPINE-MEDITERRANEAN WAY OF LIFE

Brenner Pass-Dobbiaco (109.8 km)

When you leave the Brenner Pass behind, you find the alpine landscape of Alto Adige, unique in its fascination, connected to the alpine-Mediterranean mixture which it reflects, for example, in historical cities such as Vipiteno (Sterzing), Bressanone (Brixen) and Brunico (Bruneck), but also on top of the Kronplatz in the Plan de Corones and in the Messner Mountain Museum Ripa at Brunico. The coffee bars with little tables out in the open, the ice-cream parlours and the local and Italian restaurants



invite you to taste the regional specialities, like the *Schlutzkrappen*, and the narrow streets of these three fascinating towns will conquer you with their atmosphere of Mediterranean tastes. While evocative castles dominate from the mountain tops, like Castel Tasso, the Fortezza (Franzensfeste) Fortress or the Brunico Castle that hosts one of the Messner Mountain Museums, the visitors to the valleys are surrounded by pretty landscapes, embellished with grapevines and orchards. The imposing Dolomite rocks greet from afar, but before that you come across the Upper Puster Valley, home to the Tre Cime di Lavaredo (Dreizinnen).

Do you feel like diving into the Hapsburg past, learning about the history of the time and alpine tourism and visiting the Tre Cime Nature Park? The Grand Hotel Toblach, located in the Puster Valley, offers all this. With its modern cultural and convention centre, it organises

concerts and famous festivals well beyond the confines of the area.

The Brenner Pass (1372 m a.s.l.) is the dividing point between the Adriatic basin and the Black Sea basin and for centuries has been the most immediate connection between the Italian peninsular and Central-northern Europe. Once you have passed the immense border crossing – the legacy of a world where the so-called “Schengen area” did not exist – , at **km 1.0** the beautiful cycling path of the Isarco Valley begins immediately, marked with a tourist totem on the right of the road, near a big parking lot. This is the beginning of the Ciclopista del Sole (Cycle route of the sun) – which should cross the whole of Italy and reach Calabria to then continue to Sicily – and uses the old abandoned railway tracks, as you will see in the many tunnels and bridges that you will cross.

You enter the Isarco Valley and more generally, Alto Adige, a region that has dedicated a lot of attention in these last years to the development of slow tourism, on foot and by bike, creating an important network of cycling routes connected to one another.

You pedal on a good asphalted route which is very well signed up next to the Brenner primary road 12, then at **km 3.9** you pass Terme



Following the signposts, you can't go wrong

di Brennero (Brennerbad) and, going quite steeply downhill through a couple of tunnels, you pedal away from the primary road entering the Fleres Valley for a short stretch, to then reach, without any difficulty, at **km 17.2**, the beautiful town of Colle Isarco (Gossensass) (1098 m a.s.l.), at the crossroad between the Upper Isarco Valley and the Fleres Valley, in the heart of what was an important



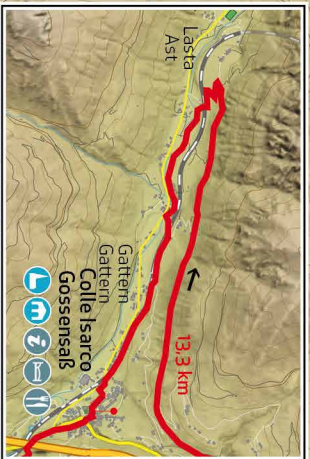
Vipiteno (Sterzing)

mining area for centuries, especially silver mining. It is the administrative centre of the municipality of Brenner and an important summer resort and winter sports resort; the old frescoed houses in the historical centre are to be admired, among which the **Miners' House, the parish church of the Immaculate Conception, the sixteenth century chapel of Saint Barbara**. Continuing the descent, at **km 18.0** you pass under the motorway moving to the left side of the valley and you pedal along the perfectly asphalted narrow path, passing through the small villages of Novale di Sopra (Oberried), Novale di Sotto (Unterried) and at **km 20.5** Novale (Ried), [there is the possibility of food and lodging and the presence of a mechanic], until you reach the entrance to Vipiteno (Sterzing) (948 m a.s.l.), at **km 22.5**, under the picturesque **Tower of the Twelve** (Zwölferturm). This pretty south-Tyrolean

Vipiteno and Tasso Castle: a fascinating alpine city

Vipiteno, the most important city in the Upper Isarco Valley, offers so much: art and history in its city museum, relaxation in the many saunas and swimming pools, gastronomy in the famous restaurants and in the many inns, an old castle like Reifenstein (Tasso Castle), to the south-west of the centre. It initially belonged to the German cavalry order, until it was bought by the Thurn and Taxis family. Marvellous!





centre is inserted in the list of “most beautiful villages of Italy”, and offers many cultural places to see, like the beautiful **Town Hall**, the large **church of Our Lady of the Swamp**, the **Multscher Museum**, and the **City Museum**, both at the house of the Teutonic order.

Continuing along the main road of the fascinating south Tyrol city, at **km 23.8** you pass under the primary road, then **Tasso Castle**



Inside the Fortezza fort (Franzenfeste)

appears above you, on the right, while on the left, on the other side of the valley there is **Pietera Castle**. You continue for a few kilometres, alongside the motorway and the Isarco River, then at **km 28.4** – at the village of Campo di Trens (Freienfeld) (937 m a.s.l.) [possibility of food and lodging], you overpass both of them and pass through the village of Stilves (Stilfes) (963 m a.s.l.). Now the mixed traffic road runs next to some beautiful woodland, then you pass through some villages, like Fuldres (Pfulters), until, at **km 32.9**, you go back alongside the motorway again and the railway, which are both on your left; now you continue down the Isarco Valley, keep to the orographic right of the river until at **km 40.5** – at Mezzaselva (Mittewald) (801 m a.s.l.) – you cross a bridge, continuing on the opposite bank.

You carry on pedalling on a cycling path until at **km 44.6** you are in front of the Fortezza

Fortezza: a cathedral in the desert

The imposing structure of Fortezza was built between 1833 and 1838 by the Austro-Hungarian Empire to protect South Tyrol from any possible attacks from the south; the structure of the fort brings to mind an old mediaeval castle, while the lower part, the Talwerk, with its small single forts, seems much more modern.

Between 1943 and 1945 the Wehrmacht kept all the Italian state treasure here, this was formed by several wagonloads of gold.

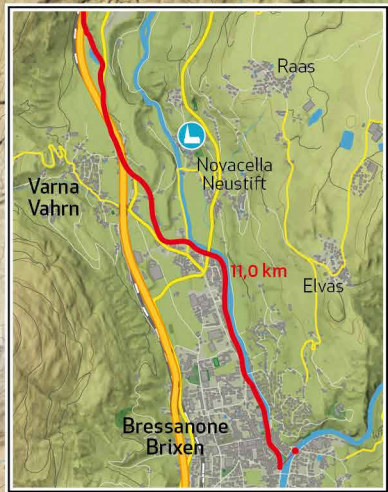
Opening hours: from May 1 to October 31, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6.



(Franzensfeste) railway station (749 m a.s.l.), a small town which grew around the important railway junction and the massive nineteenth century fortification established by the Hapsburgs.

You continue alongside the Fortezza artificial lake, then at **km 46.4** the path goes next to the primary road for a few metres – just where the enormous fort is – to then cross it at **km 46.6** and then you turn left going towards the village of Aica and the Puster Valley.

ATTENTION: our route towards the Puster Valley, the Dolomites, Cortina and Venice continues from here. Instead, if you go straight on, using the cycling path which passes by Varna (Vahrn) (671 m a.s.l.) and goes near the splendid **Novacella Abbey** (Neustift) – www.abbazianovacella.it – you arrive in the centre of Bressanone (Brixen) (599 m a.s.l.), which is well worth a detour from the official itinerary



(11 km one way). This important city, founded more than 1100 years ago, is located at the confluence of the Isarco with the Rienza, the river that starts at the foot of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo and crosses all the Puster Valley. You should see the impressive **city wall** with its three doors (**Porta Sabiona, Porta San Michele, Porta Sole**), the historical centre with its many porticos, the **Town Hall**, the



The Bressanone Cathedral

Bishop's Palace (Hofburg), the **Cathedral**, the **Baptistery**, the **White Tower**.

Instead, returning to **km 46.6**, at the detour towards the Puster Valley, at **km 47.0** you cross the Isarco on a mixed traffic road, which every now and then has large stretches of cycling path next to it. You go up towards Aica (Aicha) (730 m a.s.l.), a suburb of Naz-Sciaves (Natz Schabs), then you follow the numerous cycling signs, remaining near the Pusteria primary road 49, until at **km 51.5** the cycling path separates, going towards the left and climbs up the Stöcklvaterweg until you reach Rio di Pusteria (Mühlbach) (777 m a.s.l.) at **km 53.8**, at the entrance to the Puster Valley, a tourist and winter sports resort.

Here you start going up the valley using the Puster Valley cycling path, and already at **km 55.9** you come across a fantastic building, the **Ancient Close (Mülbacher Klause)**, an old

Bressanone: where the alpine atmosphere unites with the Mediterranean climate

Bressanone was an important episcopal town and that left its mark on the fascinating historical centre, characterised by winding narrow roads, beautiful porticos and large plazas overlooked by coffee bars, ice-cream parlours and fashionable bars. There is a vast cultural offering that makes a stay here even more complete, one of the most important is an evening guided tour of the diocesan museum: it starts with a glass of wine and continues through the enchanting Hofburg of Bressanone.



fifteenth century fort which was the border and customs office of the Tyrolean princes.

You continue and the cycling path winds into the valley, which at this point is particularly difficult, going up the Rienza River: at **km 56.9**, you cross the river thanks to a beautiful wooden bridge complete with a roof and then you go into dense enchanted woods, with ferns and a strong aroma of undergrowth.

Then at **km 58.8** you reach a fork and go straight on, while to the left you would go to the small village of Vandoies di Sotto (Niedervintl) (750 m a.s.l.), "village which is children's friend" thanks to the many large recreational areas.

Continuing among pleasant undulations, you keep the orographic left of the Rienza River in a stretch that winds through meadows, woods and also some biotopes, still on a path which is perfectly asphalted and panoramic. At **km**

65.4 you pass a railway level-crossing and turn sharp right, while if you went straight on you would reach the village of San Sigismondo (St. Sigmund); you continue in the midst of an enchanted panorama, always keeping the railway lines in sight, along a stretch which is slightly hilly.

At **km 68.4**, near Chienes (Kiens), you face an uphill climb and then another important one



Badia Castle (Sonnenburg)

at **km 70.2**, after passing the railway station at Casteldarne (Ehrenburg) (805 m a.s.l.), a small town with an impressive **mediaeval castle** – with Baroque additions – which was the ancient residence of the Künigl counts.

Continue amidst the green countryside and you reach, with some gentle hills, Floronzo (Pflaurenz) at **km 75.0** (800 m a.s.l.). Here you turn right pedalling for 100 metres next to the primary road, to then leave it again going to the right to cross the railway and arrive near San Lorenzo di Sebato (St. Lorenzen).

To your left, on the opposite side of the valley, you can glimpse the imposing X century **Badia Castle** (Sonnenburg), later turned into an abbey. Carrying straight on you pedal through the Brunico industrial area and at **km 79.7** you reach the centre of Brunico (Bruneck) (835 m a.s.l.), exactly on the bridge over the Rienza River, which you do not cross, turning sharp



right. Brunico – founded by Bruno, prince-bishop of Bressanone who also built the castle in the city – was mentioned for the first time in an official document dated 1256, later becoming the most important centre in the Puster Valley thanks to commerce and crafts. This wealth can still be seen today in its picturesque mediaeval buildings, in the ruins of the strong walls and the frescoed doors. You should not



The centre of Brunico (Bruneck)

miss **the Civic Museum, the Parish Church of Our Lady, the Ethnographic Museum in Teodone, Brunico Castle.**

We must point out that from Brunico the beautiful cycling path to the north starts, this goes through the Tures Valley (Taufere Tal) – a valley which is perpendicular to the Puster Valley) which in 17 wonderful kilometres (only one way), nearly all flat, leads to Campo Tures (Sand in Taufers) (862 m a.s.l.), which in turn looks onto the entrance of the Aurina Valley, which leads right under the Vetta d'Italia.

Once you return to Brunico, pedalling alongside the Rienza you leave the centre and at **km 81.1** you pass under a viaduct of the primary road, then immediately after, you cross the river using a fine wooden bridge and enter a dense woodland – the path is equipped with benches -, then at **km 82.2** there are a couple of illuminated, rough path tunnels.

Brunico Castle: Messner Mountain Museum Ripa

Brunico castle today hosts the fifth of the six Messner Mountain Museums, the MMM Ripa, which can also be reached by bicycle, which concentrates on the relationship between man and the mountains, illustrating different lifestyles and the different cultures of the populations who live in the mountains in the various continents. The exhibition includes many works and object of everyday use of the most important mountain cultures in the world. Opening hours: every day, 10-6.







Monguelfo Castle (Welsperg)

At **km 83.2** you pass in front of the Brunico hydro-electrical station and then go slightly uphill, with some short stretches on dirt, the path continues towards Perca (Percha). At **km 87.9** you cross a bridge over the Rienza and arrive near Valdaora di Sotto (Niederolang); uphill, at **km 88.6**, you pass under the railway and immediately turn left, continuing uphill.

Continue straight ahead and at **km 90.3** – at Valdaora di Mezzo (Mitterolang) – you turn sharp left and pass through a small cobblestoned village; then at **km 91.3**, you pass through Valdaora di Sopra (Oberolang) (1083 m a.s.l.). Here you can visit **Lipper Säge**, the **Venetian saw**, an old water-powered sawmill, result of Leonardo da Vinci's genius, this has now been restored and is visible to the public. Then you pass the cemetery and faced with a magnificent, vast panorama, you descend keeping to the left.

Welsperg castle: noblesse oblige

The castle which has belonged to the lords of Welsperg for more than eight-hundred years, dominates above the city from a rock spur, the Welspergs were one of the most important noble families in Tyrol.

This extraordinary fort can be reached from the centre of Monguelfo thanks to a pleasant path, embellished with works of art.

In the summer months, the castle hosts many prestigious events, such as important concerts. Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 10-5; Sunday, 3p.m. to 6 p.m. (end of June-beginning of September).

At **km 92.3**, after passing under the railway lines, you keep to the right to reach the picturesque right bank of the Valdaora artificial lake and continue along the right bank in the midst of woodlands, among the placid waters: it is one of the most enchanting stretches of the itinerary. Around **km 94.5** you leave the lake, continuing on a rough path in the dense woodlands along the Rienza; at **km 98.0**, in



Dobbiaco Lake

front of the railway station in Monguelfo (Welsberg) (1087 m a.s.l.), a small city embellished with an evocative, richly frescoed **Gothic tabernacle**, (considered the most beautiful in the whole of the Alto Adige region) and the big **castle**.

Still heading north from Monguelfo, there is the possibility to go along the cycling path which runs through another valley, perpendicular to the Puster Valley, the Casies Valley (Gsiesertal), which leads uphill to the village of Santa Maddalena Vallalta (St. Magdalena-Obertal) (1470 m a.s.l.). It is exactly 18 km long (one way), the first 3 km and the last three are quite difficult.

Continuing along the separate cycling path, at **km 101.0** you pass over the road which leads to the Braies lake and pedalling through green meadows you head towards Villabassa (Niederdorf) (1158 m a.s.l.), whose beautiful

Dobbiaco: Grand Hotel, a luxurious hotel in Hapsburg style

Living like in the Hapsburg times? In the majestic Grand Hotel, built in 1878, this is still possible: the elegant structure still today has an atmosphere of refined nobility and recalls the times when Dobbiaco hosted counts, princes, royal families and cultural characters such as Gustav Mahler. Today it is also a cultural and convention centre, with a wonderful musical programme offered to the many tourists who still flock to the splendid city.

77





Von Kurz central plaza can be reached at **km 103.8**. A tidbit: on the corner between the Von Kurz plaza and via Stazione, right in front of the Hotel Adler, there is a brown box with "Service Station" written on it, this contains tools for repairing bicycles, a sort of self-service mechanical centre, including a pump.

Follow the main road and then the cycling path continues next to the primary road, keeping it to the left, then at **km 105.0** you pass the sign which marks the exit from Villabassa and you pedal between the road and the railway until, at **km 105.7**, you find the signs on the right to turn right and pass under both the railway and the primary road and then you immediately turn right again, still heading towards San Candido. At **km 108.1** you reach an important fork in the road: to the right you go towards San Candido and then after 600 metres on the right there

is a detour towards Cortina d'Ampezzo, while you will turn left onto via Tiefen so that you can visit the centre of Dobbiaco. At **km 108.5**, you pass in front of the Mondolatte Dairy Museum which is about the history of cheese production www.mondolattetrecime.com and then at **km 109.8** you reach the centre of Dobbiaco (Toblach) (1245 m a.s.l.) which is not to be missed, arriving right under the imposing **parish church of Saint John the Baptist**.

The first mention of the town dates back to 827 as "vicus" Duplago, which then passed from the hands of the Bavarian dukes into those of the counts of Gorizia, from the Tyrolean counts to the Hapsburg Austrians and finally to Italy in 1919. Already in the second half of the XIX century, it became a famous spa and tourist area thanks to the new railway connection with Vienna, and during the second half of the XX century it definitively

perfected its dedication to tourism. It is divided into the historical part and Dobbiaco Nuova (New Dobbiaco), where there is the railway station. You should see, apart from the **parish church**, the beautiful **castle**, the **Red Tower**, the oldest **Stations of the Cross** in Tyrol, the **Sanctuary of Saint Mary, Gustav Mahler's house** and the small house where he composed, as well as the **Mount Piana open-air historical Museum** on the First World War.

Dobbiaco is a crucial point, an important junction for cycling routes: in fact, you can take, as you will do, the cycling path called the Lunga Via delle Dolomiti (the Long Road in the Dolomites) which leads towards Cima-banche, Cortina d'Ampezzo and Calalzo, but at the same time there is also the possibility to continue straight on along the Puster Valley cycling path towards San Candido and from

here you can continue along the really beautiful Drava cycling path, which leads to Austria and then to Slovenia, Maribor, with a stimulating itinerary about 370 km long. As you can see, here in Alto Adige, there is something for everyone...



View of the Upper Puster Valley

INFO

Colle Isarco (Gossensass)

Tourist Information: piazza Ibsen 2,
tel. +39.0472.632372, www.colleisarco.org,
info@gossensass.org
Possibility of food and lodging.

Vipiteno (Sterzing)

Tourist Information: piazza Città 3,
tel. +39.0472.765325, www.sterzing.com,
info@infosterzing.com
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of
mechanics.

Bressanone (Brixen)

Tourist Information: viale Ratisbona 9,
tel. +39.0472.836401, www.brixen.org,
info@brixen.org

Rio di Pusteria (Mühlbach)

Tourist Information: via Katharina-Lanz 90,
tel. +39.0472.886048,
www.gitschberg-jochtal.com,
info@gitschberg-jochtal.com
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of
mechanics.

San Lorenzo di Sebato (St. Lorenzen)

Tourist Information: via Josef Renzler 9,
tel. + 39.0474.474092,
www.bruneck.com, info@st-lorenzen.com

Brunico (Bruneck)

Tourist Information: piazza Municipio 7,
tel. +39.0474.555722, www.bruneck.com,
info@bruneck.com

Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Valdaora (Olang)

Tourist Information: via Floriani 19,
tel. +39.0474.496277, www.olang.info,
info@olang.com

Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Monguelfo (Welsberg)

Tourist Information: via Pusteria 16,
tel. +39.0474.944118, www.welsberg.com,
info@welsberg.com

Possibility of food and lodging.

Villabassa (Niederdorf)

Tourist Information: via Stazione 3,
tel. +39.0474.745136, www.villabassa.it,
info@villabassa.it

Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Dobbiaco (Toblach)

Tourist Information: via Dolomiti 3,
tel. +39.0474.972132, www.dobbiaco.info,
info@dobbiaco.info

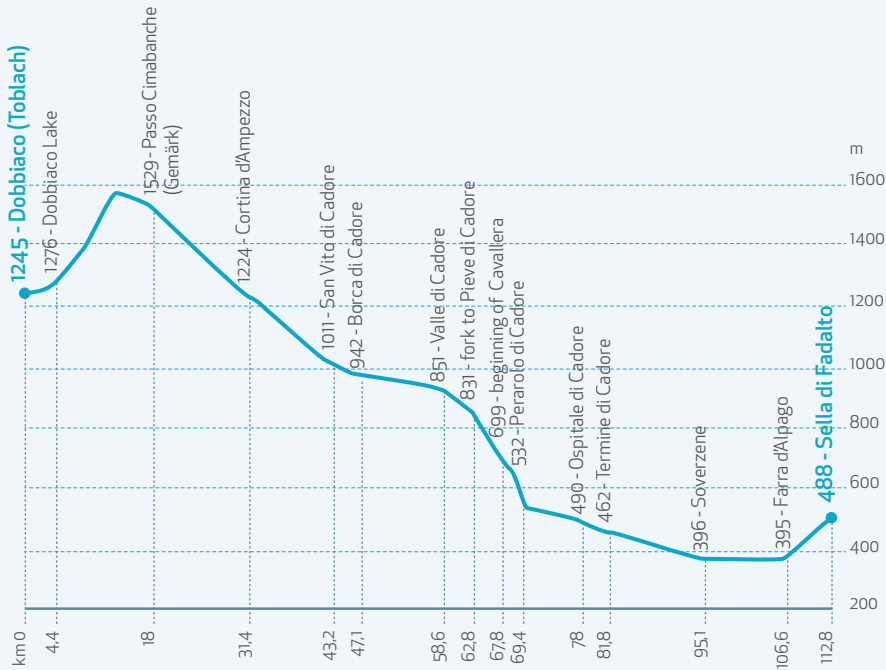
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.



THE DOLOMITES UNESCO HERITAGE SITE

Dobbiaco-Sella di Fadalto 112.8 km

These are the most beautiful mountains in the world! Apart from the peaks with their important sounding names like Cristallo, Tofane and Antelao, it is the Tre Cime di Lavaredo which is the most fascinating for mountaineers and nature lovers. The Dolomites, UNESCO heritage site, are at the centre of the fourth stretch of the route. By bicycle you cross Cortina d'Ampezzo towards Pieve di Cadore, towards the Santa Croce Lake, then towards Belluno, and for who wishes, it is possible to have a



short rest in the splendid Renaissance town of Feltre.

When the Dolomites, in 2009, were included in the list of Unesco Heritage sites, the committee motivated its decision, among other things, with their “unique monumental beauty”. Also the province of Belluno, with its main town with the same name, is part of the Unesco Heritage: it contains the Belluno Dolomites



The Tre Cime di Lavaredo

National Park which is a dream for tourists, mountaineers, climbers, mountain-bike lovers and road bike enthusiasts.

The Santa Croce Lake is a perfect cooling spot after the difficult rides and the district which is famous for windsurf and kitesurf also welcomes beginners.

In the Piave Valley, at the foot of the Feltrine Dolomites, there is the marvellous mediaeval



Cortina d'Ampezzo

town of Feltre, on the sides of a hill. You must see the Renaissance palaces and houses with their splendidly decorated facades.

From the centre of Dobbiaco, in front of the Baroque **church of Saint John the Baptist**, you go straight on via piazza Mercato and via Conti Künipl, then at **km 0.5** you keep to the left following the cycling signs for San Candido



The Santa Croce Lake

(Innichen) along via Tiefen. At **km 1.5** you pass under the railway and go to the left, while at **km 2.1** after passing under the primary road, you turn immediately right, pedalling along the Lunga Via delle Dolomiti which leads to Cimabanche and then to Cortina along the old Dolomiti railway track.

Now you say farewell to the Puster Valley and start winding into the narrow Landro Valley



Dobbiaco Lake

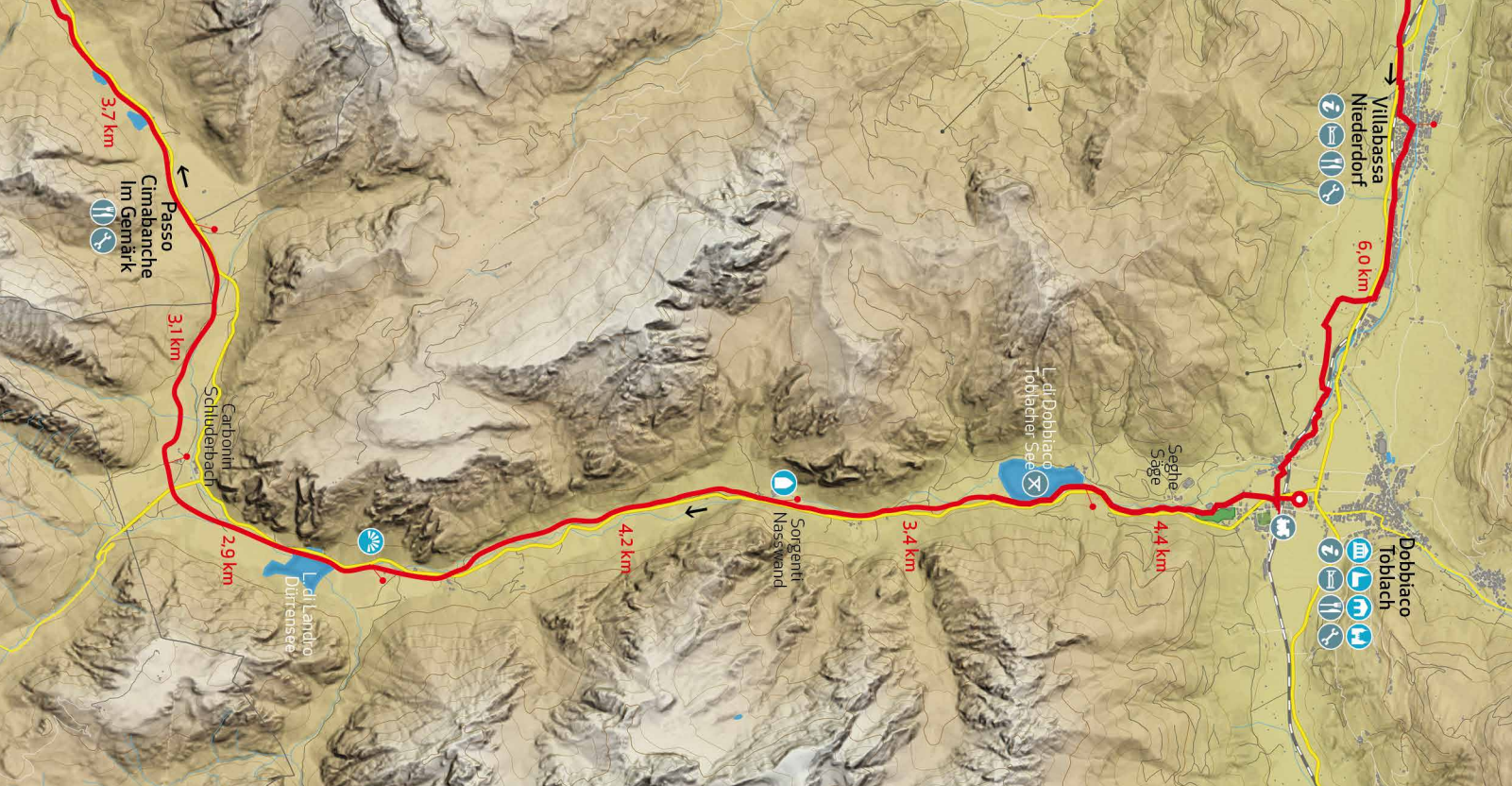
(Höhlensteintal); at **km 3.0** you go slightly to the left, leaving the asphalted surface for a good rough road, until at **km 4.4** you go to the left side of the crystalline and magnificent Dobbiaco lake, with a wonderful route embellished by numerous benches and picnic tables. You go up quite gently (the average is a 2% gradient) on a separate rough road but very close to the primary road, until at **km 7.8** you pass in front of the Sorgenti (Nasswand) **War cemetery** where there are 1259 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

At **km 8.4** you pass under the primary road and keep to the right, still slightly uphill on a rough road which is not difficult, then at **km 10.1** there is another underpass and then another at **km 11.5**, until at **km 12.0** you reach a wide panoramic clearing from where you can admire an extraordinary view of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo on the left, the source of the Rienza

Tre Cime di Lavaredo: the magic of the triangle

These are the symbol of the Dolomites, Unesco heritage site, and reaching the foot of the mountains by bike along the mythical climb, proposed many times at the Giro d'Italia is a unique experience. The imposing yellow faces stand out against the sky and attract climbers from all over the world with their difficult routes that have made the history of modern mountaineering: Cima Grande (2999 m), Cima Ovest (2973 m) and Cima Piccola (2857).





River is found there, which you will now leave after accompanying it for so many kilometres. You continue straight on and at **km 12.9** you are very close to the Landro river banks, then at **km 14.9** you pass through the village of Carbonin, from where you have a magnificent view of the Cristallo (turning left on the primary road, with a 6 km climb you reach the Misurina Lake...), and you carry straight on amidst a dense woodland to arrive, at **km 18.0**, at Passo di Cimabanche (Gemärk) (1529 m a.s.l.) which marks the border between the Trentino-Alto Adige and Veneto regions (at the peak, apart from cool temperatures, there is also a bike rental service and a mechanic). Now you start the descent towards Cortina d'Ampezzo along the rough cycling path, still following the former railway tracks – and at **km 21.7** the ancient shape of the thirteenth century **chiesa dei Santi Biagio e Nicolò**

stands out from above at Ospitale an old resting place for travellers, then at **km 22.3** the old Ospitale station appears. Then, descending, you cross a couple of bridges and go through a couple of tunnels to reach a panoramic position over the valley, pedalling along the middle of the slope under the wonderful peaks of the Dolomites. You continue in this enchanted atmosphere crossing through conifer forests in the heart of the Dolomiti d'Ampezzo and at **km 27.4** you reach the old Fiammes railway station; proceeding with a pleasant descent, at **km 29.7** the cycling path becomes asphalted once again and shortly after you pass in front of Ospedale Codivilla. Now you will find benches in panoramic positions that allow you to enjoy the view from above of the splendid Ampezzano basin. Go straight on and at **km 31.4** you reach an old station, in the centre of Cortina d'Ampezzo

Dolomiti d'Ampezzo Natural Park: nature reserve of flora and fauna

The Dolomiti d'Ampezzo Natural Park began in 1990 and stretches over an area of 11,200 hectares to the north of the inhabited centre of Cortina.

An extraordinary world, a journey through the evolution of the eras, along breath-taking horizons and panoramas, slopes and clearings, woods which are hundreds of years old, sources, lakes, canyons, waterfalls and spectacular equipped climbing paths for the discovery of fauna which is both delicate and precious among the most well-known peaks of the Dolomites: Cristallo, Tofane, Punte di Fanes, Col Bechei, Croda Rossa.



(1224 m a.s.l.). Nestled in the basin, framed by Tofane, Pomagagnon, Cristallo, Faloria, Sorapis, Becco di Mezzodì, Croda da Lago, Cinque Torri and Nuvolau, Cortina is one of the most prestigious holiday resorts in the world. Besides its extraordinary natural beauty, it offers many cultural and important events. You should see the **chiesa parrocchiale dei Santi Filippo e Giacomo** (with an impressive wood-



Cortina d'Ampezzo

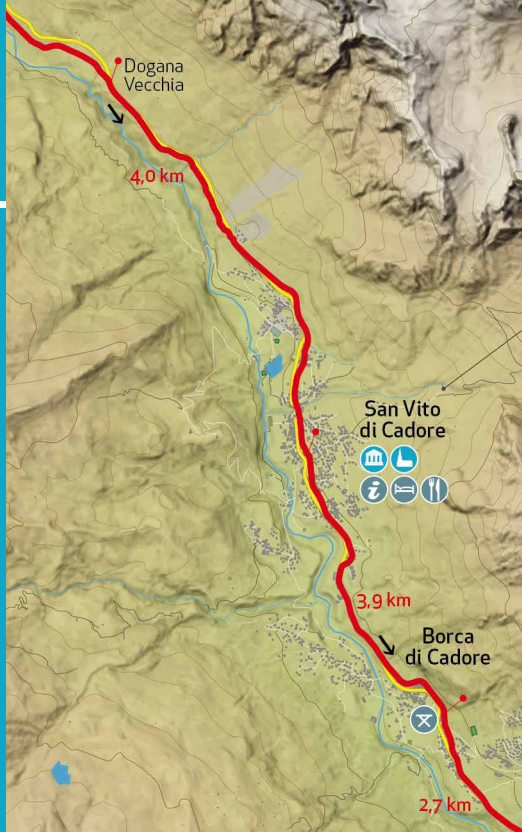
en tabernacle by Andrea Brustolon), **Ciasa de ra Regoles**, the **Rinaldo Zardini Palaeontological Museum**, the **Ampezzo Ethnographical Museum** and the **Mario Rimoldi Modern Art Museum**, an art gallery with some works by the greatest twentieth century painters.

You leave the Queen of the Dolomites on an asphalted cycling path that is perfectly signposted, then at **km 33.3** you cross the primary road and wind into the meadows passing in front of the magnificent Olympic trampoline at Zuel (which somehow recalls the one seen a few days before in Innsbruck).

Continue on the cycling path which at **km 35.0** runs next to the main road, then at **km 35.8** – where there is the fork to the right towards Socol/Pian da Lago – we advise going straight on along the wide primary road and at **km 36.5** you find the cycling path again. At **km 39.2** you reach Dogana Vecchia (1116 m

Cortina d'Ampezzo: the Olympic city with an international atmosphere

Cortina d'Ampezzo offers a perfect blend of nature, history, art and culture that makes it unique in the world, the destination of the international jet set. Cortina is not only about shopping, glamour and a series of very important cultural and sporting events: it offers much more, as it has an absolutely stunning naturalistic and panoramic patrimony like the Natural Park of the Dolomiti d'Ampezzo, which includes the group of the Tofane and Mount Cristallo and stretches to the Fanes Park – Sennes – Braies. The Ampezzo territory is a real outdoor park at the centre of the Dolomites and is perfect for excursions and mountaineering: the guides were born here who accompanied the explorers of the Dolomites, coming from all over the world to conquer the most prestigious peaks.



a.s.l.), here until 1915 there was the old border between Italy and Austria. You can enjoy a wonderful view of Antelao from here.

Then, at **km 41.1** you pass under the primary road, and the good cycling path – very busy in the summer with Italian and foreign cycle-tourists – passes first at **km 41.8** the old Chiappuzza station and then at **km 43.2**, in front of the two beautiful churches at San Vito di Cadore (1011 m a.s.l.). You should visit the **parish church, chiesa della Madonna della Difesa** – where you can find some interesting sixteenth century frescoes inside – and the **Ethnographic Museum** (www.museosanvitodicadore.eu).

Continuing along the cycling path, at **km 47.1** you reach the small station at Borca di Cadore (942 m a.s.l.) which has a welcoming rest area and a refreshing fountain. Continue straight ahead and at **km 49.8** you pass Vodo di Cadore,

while at **km 50.6** you pass under the primary road, keeping it to your left.

Shortly after you pass through the suburb of Peaio and – still pedalling pleasantly downhill with an extraordinary view of Mount Pelmo – at **km 54** you meet the B road 347 which – going right – leads towards Cibiana di Cadore (4 km uphill) which is the starting point for the excursion (obviously not by bike!) to the top of Mount Rite (2181 m) to see the fantastic MMM Dolomites, the **Museum of the clouds** (www.messner-mountain-museum.it) one of the six museums created by Reinhold Messner.

At **km 54.9** you reach Venas di Cadore, below the wonderful parish church of San Marco, which contains a beautiful tryptic by Francesco Vecellio, Titian's brother; at **km 56.7**, one after the other there is a nicely illuminated tunnel and a difficult viaduct before reaching Valle di Cadore at **km 58.6** (851 m a.s.l.), in front of

an information point for cyclists with refreshments, just before the small railway station. Then you cross the primary road at **km 60.5** and at **km 61.4** you pass Tai di Cadore (848 m a.s.l.) to arrive, on the cycling path, at **km 62.8**, at Sottocastello, a suburb of Pieve di Cadore, at the crossroads with via dell'Arsenale which goes to the right. You are now at a strategic three way crossroad: to the left with a detour



On the cycling path near Cortina

of hard uphill climb you reach the splendid little town of Pieve di Cadore, home to Titian Vecellio, while going straight on, along the cycling path, after 4.5 km you reach Calalzo di Cadore and its crucial railway station, while going downhill to the right through Sottocastello, on a road with mixed traffic, you continue on our official route towards Perarolo and Belluno. The heart of Pieve di Cadore, historical centre



Pieve di Cadore, piazza Tiziano

of Cadore, is formed by **Piazza Tiziano**, with the bronze statue of Titian Vecellio: there is also the crenelated **Civic Tower**, the sixteenth century **Palace of the Magnifica Comunità di Cadore** (www.magnificacomunitadicadore.it), where on the second floor you can find the interesting **Cadore Archaeological Museum**, the **House of Tiziano l'Oratore** (with the **Foundation for the study of Titian and Cadore**) and the seventeenth century **Jacobi-Solero Palace**. It is also worth taking a break at the Gran Caffé Tiziano, historical place with gothic arches and open beams, on the ground floor of the Palace of the Magnifica Comunità. The **church of Santa Maria Nascente**, is impressive with many paintings signed by various members of the prestigious Vecellio family of painters. There is also the fifteenth century building that tradition marks as Titian's birthplace. In via Arsenale 15 there is the **Museum of eyeglasses**

(www.museodellocchiale.it) which tells the history of this object – from the XVI century to today – with a foray to the Far East.

[For those of you coming from Calalzo di Cadore, at the cemetery you come down a steep narrow road – via Montericco – until the crossroad with via Valentino. Then you turn left into largo Monsignor Benedet, arriving at a three way crossroad with a pretty fountain and you turn left into the narrow via Caduti del Lavoro...]

Returning to **km 62.8** at the three-way crossroad at Sottocastello, leave the cycling path which leads to Calalzo di Cadore and turn sharp right – downhill – then you keep to the right and at **km 63.1** turn left into via Vedorcia, which leads to the village of Sottocastello; you reach a three-way crossroad with a nice fountain at **km 63.5**, and turn left into the narrow via Caduti del Lavoro, then at **km 65.8**, still

Pieve di Cadore: the Dolomites, art and culture

Historical capital of Cadore and better known as the town of Titian, Pieve di Cadore (878 m) is the cultural centre of the area. Nestled on the banks of the Centro Cadore Lake, it offers a picturesque view over Mount Antelao, the Marmarole mountain group, on Sasslungo of Cibiana and on Dolomiti d'Oltralpe.

The birthplace of Titian Vecellio holds testimony and works of art by the famous Renaissance painter: it is worth visiting the birthplace house with its museum dedicated to the artist and to the frescoes jealously conserved in the churches. Attractions of the territory are also the monumental works dedicated to the famous Titian Vecellio and the brave Pietro Fortunato Calvi and the Palace of the Magnifica Comunità which dates back to 1477, with its tower which was added a few decades later. The historical palace

displays the motto of Cadore “Justitia et fide conservabitur” and it is home to the Cadore Archaeological Museum which has remains from the Roman period. The Pieve di Cadore Museum of eyeglasses represents a prestigious reality, among the most important on an international level, dedicated to eyeglasses, an activity which has developed throughout the Cadore region starting from the end of the nineteenth century.





going downhill you turn left into the wide via Saccon, now perfectly asphalted.

Pedalling through the woods you arrive, at **km 67.1** at a brand new cycling/footpath next to the busy primary road which leads, at **km 67.8**, onto the old Cavallera, a road built by the Austrians in 1828 – where traffic is permitted only to those who live there and for emergencies – which with a steep downhill ride and



Perarolo di Cadore, Museum of the Cidolo and Timber

two wide bends leads, at **km 69.4** into the centre of Perarolo di Cadore (532 m a.s.l.), at the confluence of the Boite stream with the Piave river.

This is a very important place because this is where the adventurous rafting navigation began along the river that has become sacred to the country, going towards the Venetian lagoon. In fact, here at Perarolo you will recall the Wolfratshausen rafters, visiting the interesting **Museo del cidolo e del legname**, located in the **Casa dei Trofei** [Trophy House] next to the **Lazzaris-Costantini Palace** with its richly frescoed facade; also the large church of San Nicolò is very interesting, the patron saint of mariners. Perarolo has now lost that central role which it played for years, cut off from commercial traffic by the new viaduct that bypasses it, a common destiny for all the small towns in this part of the upper Piave.

You continue along this wide unused road, the former Alemagna road, large, wide, an enormous cycling path which is almost deserted; at **km 69.7** you pass in front of Perarolo station, one of the three located on the railway line Ponte nelle Alpi-Calalzo, then at **km 73.7** you pass in front of the **votive chapel of the Santa Maria della Salute** at Macchietto.

The valley is particularly narrow in this stretch, until Castellavazzo, and is called “Canale del Piave”, we can enjoy the silvery movement from above until you turn right at **km 78.0** entering the small town of Ospitale di Cadore (490 m a.s.l.), embellished by some beautiful buildings with Gothic windows and by the presence of an old hospital, in the old village, which welcomed pilgrims and wayfarers. Going out from the centre, you pass the railway station at **km 78.5** and then you continue along the valley: at **km 80.2**, you pass

Cibiana
di Cadore

Perarolo
di Cadore

Caratte

Macchietto

Ospitale
di Cadore

Davestra

Termini
di Cadore

Castellavazzo

Casso

Codissago

Longarone

Erto

Dogna

4,6 km

3,5 km

1,6 km

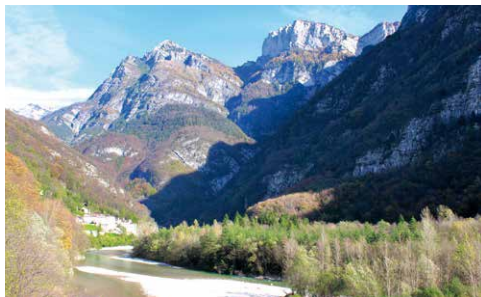
2,2 km

4,3 km

4,3 km

the village of Davestra, the only little village located on the opposite bank, dominated by looming woodlands, where the remains of the ancient early-mediaeval metallurgical town of **Paluc** were found.

At **km 81.8** you enter Termine di Cadore (462 m a.s.l.), the old border of Cadore, a centre whose importance was connected to the world of transportation and transformation of timber,



The Piave between Castellavazzo and Codissago

as you can see from the beautiful noble houses and which hosted the **Magnifica Regola di Termine**. Then you return to the wide road and at **km 82.8**, when you join the new primary road, fortunately a new stretch of cycling path appears on the left, this was opened in May 2015, with spectacular and intrepid portions of path, which lead safely to the exit to the local road, via Giovanni Uberti, and from here, turning sharp left, downhill to the Malcom sul Piave bridge, passing, at **km 84.7**, under the **Gardona Tower**, the remains of an old castle near Castellavazzo. A little further up there is the beautiful centre of Castellavazzo (498 m a.s.l.) well known for its stone quarries, which deserves a visit for the presence of some prestigious palaces and the interesting **Museo della pietra e degli scalpellini** (Museum of stones and stonecutters, www.museipiavemae.com). Crossing the bridge, you are on the other

Rafts and rafters

For centuries the river Piave has been like a motorway with 350,000 tree trunks a year transported on about 3000 water “trucks” which, thanks to the possibility of having an enormous quantity of timber, permitted the Repubblica Serenissima to be what it was: the queen of the seas. The precious trees from Cadore and the surrounding valleys, passing through the knowledgeable hands of the Venetian craftsmen from the Arsenal, already in the XIII century the largest manufacturing area in Europe, were transformed into oars, masts, (yard-arms, bowsprits) and powerful ships.

side of the river and at **km 85.3**, you are in the town of Codissago (460 m a.s.l.), in front of the important **Museo Etnografico degli zattieri del Piave** (Ethnographic Museum of the Piave rafters, www.museipiavemae.com) which tells the centuries old and troubled history of these freshwater mariners, exposed to so many risks and protagonists of thousands of adventures along the long and adventurous journey on top of the water from the Dolomites to the Venetian lagoon.

Continue along the left bank of the Piave along a mixed but limited traffic road and at **km 86.5** you reach the foot of the bridge which on the right would lead to Longarone; you will continue straight ahead and immediately after you pass a small bridge which crosses the Vajont stream. Looking up you can see, perfectly intact, the large dam whose name immediately recalls the disaster which

took place in 1963, when an enormous landslide came away from Mount Toc and dropped into the artificial basin formed by the gigantic dam which had just been finished, causing the overflow of about fifty million cubic metres of water and the consequent disastrous wave which cancelled out most of the villages at the foot of the valley – Longarone above all – and caused almost two thousand victims. However,

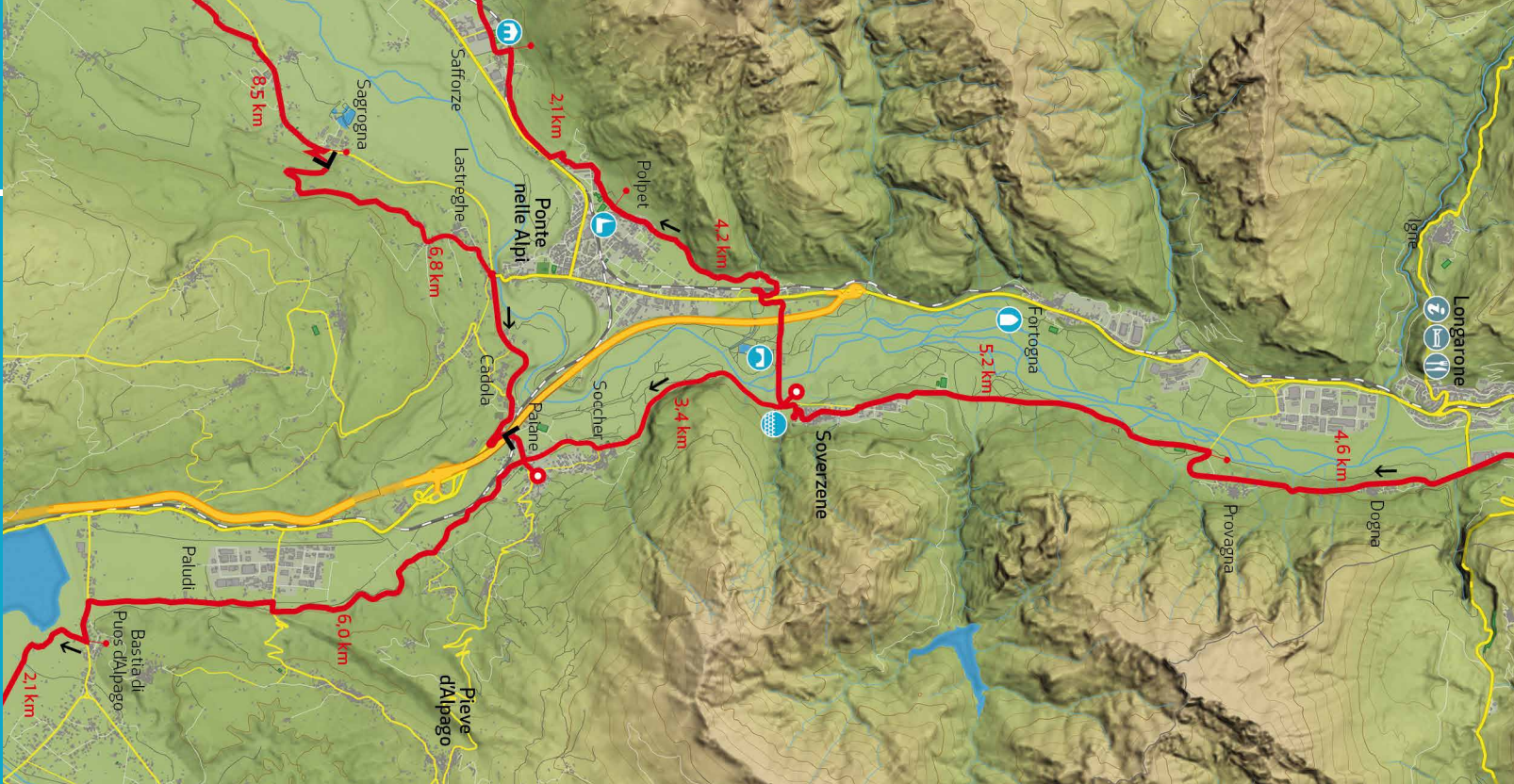


The monumental cemetery of Fortogna

er, we do recommend a short detour to see the re-built town of Longarone, to see for yourself the tragedy that was experienced over fifty years ago and to visit the **Monumental cemetery of Fortogna**, 4 km away from the town centre, where you can see the 1910 small white marble stones, all the same, which leave you with a sense of astonishment.

You continue along the left bank – opposite Longarone – and at **km 87.2** you pass the small town of Dogna and then, at **km 88.9** you pass Provagna. Once you leave the town, at **km 89.5**, pedal downhill a wide bend to the right, then at **89.9** you immediately turn right to pass under a large bridge which connects the two banks of the Piave, continuing along the left side.

With some frequent and pleasant undulations you go along the left side of the river and at **km 95.1**, after a brief winding descent, you arrive at the monumental entrance of the Soverzene Pow-



er Station, with its grand facade in Rationalist style.

Here, our route goes straight ahead, while turning right you can make a detour, which we recommend: you cross the long and narrow bridge-dam (one-way alternate direction) which leads to the right side of the Piave, arriving at Pian di Vedoia and then splendid Belluno, the capital of the province, in 11.8 km (one way).

From the **Soverzene Power Station** – at **km 95.1** – don't cross the large bridge over the Piave but keep to the left on a dirt road: the wonderful new cycling route starts here, the so-called Via Regia which leads inside the station. Continue on a dirt path stretch, then you go through quite a low tunnel (you have to go on foot), you go up some steps and a couple of footbridges over the Piave, then pedal first alongside the Piave and then ride alongside the Soccher canal.

At **km 97.8** – at Soccher – you cross the canal go-

ing to the left bank to then return to the right bank at **km 99.3**; then at **km 100.0** you return definitively to the right side of the large waterway which is now called Cellina canal.

At **km 102.2**, at Paludi, do not cross the bridge on the left but continue straight on using a fine natural rough route, called "Alpago Natura", which at **km 104.5** leads to the village of Puos d'Alpago. After 100 metres, cross the B road 422



Cycling path at Farra d'Alpago

which leads to Farra d'Alpago and continue on the good cycling route, dirt path, of Via Regia. At **km 106.6** you cross the cycle-footbridge over the Tesa stream, then you pass next to a busy campsite on the banks of the lake – mainly used by surf lovers – and turning left in just a few metres you reach the beautiful centre of Farra d'Alpago (395 m a.s.l.), at the foot of the Cansiglio forest. Here there are a lot of old **courtyards** of



On the banks of the Santa Croce Lake



the old village to see, the **parish church of Santi Filippo e Giacomo**, the **arch** over the entryway of a presumed monastery of Saint Fara. Continuing on the new Via Regia rough cycling path, which follows the lake with wonderful views, at **km 109.2**, you pass the town of Poiatte, a favourite resort for windsurfers and for sailing, where there is the local yacht club. Here you meet up with the B road which has quite light traffic, and some pleasant undulations and going through a couple of galleries, at **km 112.2** it joins the Alemagna primary road; just after, slightly uphill at **km 112.8** at Sella di Fadalto (488 m a.s.l.), you reach the border with the Treviso province, the alpine border which connects Alpago with Val Lapisina.

Santa Croce Lake: the Eldorado of water sports

At the foot of Alpago and Pascolet mountains and Faverghera, near Belluno, the splendid Santa Croce Lake is the ideal place for those who want to spend a holiday among the mountains doing water sports like sailing, windsurf and kitesurf. Alpago has a lot to offer culturally: at Chies there is the Natural History Museum, at Valdenogher the Alchemist's House, the Cimbrian villages at Cansiglio, the Lorenzoni alpine botanical gardens, the Zanardo ecological museum and the Museo dell'Uomo (Museum of Mankind).



INFO**Dobbiaco (Toblach)**

Tourist information: via Dolomiti 3,
tel. +39.0474.972132, www.dobbiaco.info,
info@dobbiaco.info
Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of
mechanics.

Cortina d'Ampezzo

Tourist information: corso Italia 81,
tel. +39.0436.869086, www.cortina.dolomiti.org,
www.serviziampezzo.it, infocortina@dolomiti.org,
infopoint@serviziampezzo.it
Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of
mechanics.

San Vito di Cadore

Tourist information: corso Italia 92/94,
tel. +39.0436.9119, www.cadoredolomiti.it,

sanvito@dolomiti.org,
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Borca di Cadore

Tourist information: via Roma 74,
tel. +39.0435.482015, www.cadoredolomiti.it,
infoborca@libero.it
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Valle di Cadore

Tourist information: via XX Settembre 79/a,
tel. +39.0435.501527, www.cadoredolomiti.it,
www.valledicadoredolomiti.it,
prolocovalledicadore@casadolomiti.it
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Pieve di Cadore

Tourist information
Consorzio "Cadore Dolomiti", piazza Municipio
tel. +39.0435.500372, www.cadoredolomiti.it,

pieve@dolomiti.org
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Calalzo di Cadore

Tourist information: piazza IV Novembre,
tel. +39.0435.501603, www.dolomititerme.it,
prolococalalzo@dolomititerme.it
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Longarone

Tourist information: piazza Gonzaga 1,
tel. + 39.0437.770119, www.prolocolongarone.it,
info@prolocolongarone.it
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Ponte nelle Alpi

Tourist information: piazzale al Bivio 14,
tel. +39.0437.981792, www.prolocopna.it,
info@prolocopna.it
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Farra d'Alpago

Tourist information: viale al Lago,
tel. +39.0437.46448, www.prolocoalpago.it,
ufficioturisticofarra@gmail.com
Possibility of food and lodgings.

Belluno

Product Club: Dolomites Bike Club,
c/o Consorzio Dolomiti, via San Lucano 36,
tel. +39.0437.941148, www.3dolomiti.it,
bikeclub@belledolomiti.it
Tourist information: Consorzio Dolomiti,
via San Lucano 36, tel.+39.0437.941148,
www.belledolomiti.it, info@belledolomiti.it
Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of
mechanics.



Towards Belluno

detour 11.8 km

Starting from the Power Station at Soverzene, you ride the Soverzene bridge-dam over the Piave, long and narrow, with a traffic light; at **km 1.0** you pass over the motorway and then – at a big roundabout – you turn right and then immediately left following the cycling signs.

You then pass under the primary road at **km 1.5**, then at **km 1.9** you pass over the railway and then turn left, pedalling on a ribbon of asphalt in a magnificent meadow with a panoramic view over Valbelluna. Continue with some pleasant undulations and some benches appear along the route, then at **km 4.2**, you arrive in front of the eighteenth century **church of Our Lady of Sorrows** (or **Madonna di Ve-**

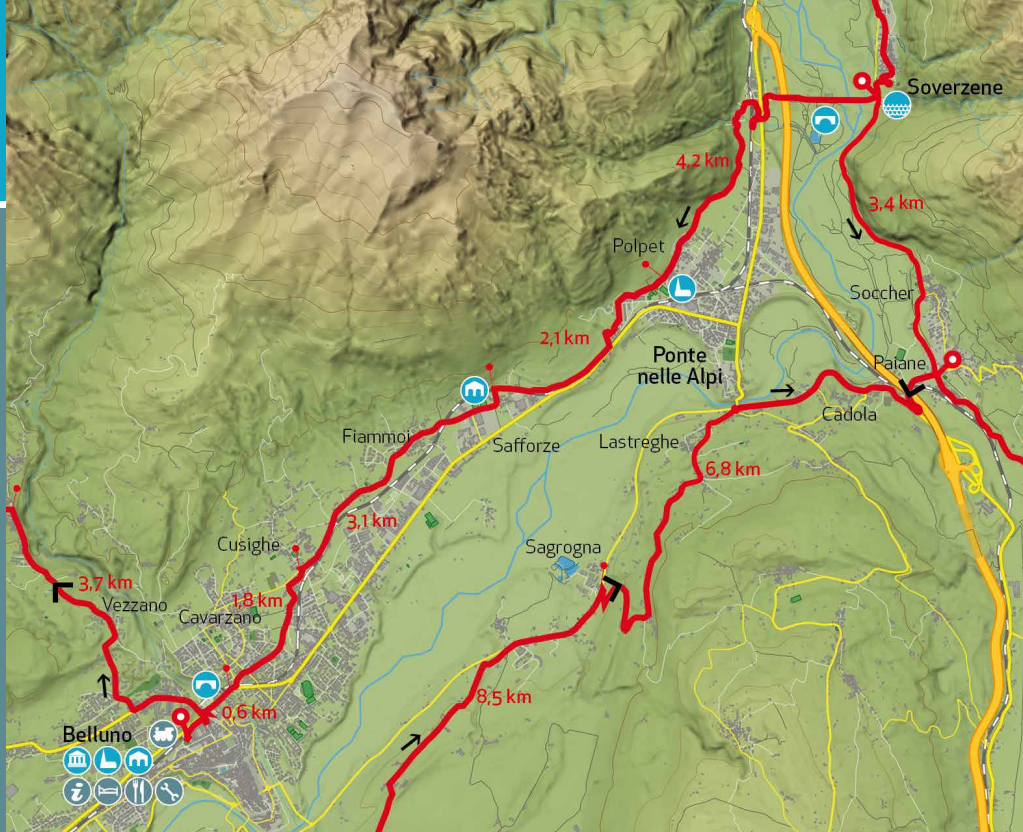
doia) at Polpet, suburb of Ponte nelle Alpi. At **km 4.7** you go towards the left onto via Nuova Erto, then you follow the cycling signs which send you to the right, then there is a pleasant descent in the midst of green meadows next to the railway lines, which you cross at **km 6.3**.

You arrive at Safforze after 200 metres and you pass next to the seventeenth century **Venetian villa, Fulcis Montalban** (you arrive from behind it with the new link road), surrounded by a large meadow, then you continue towards the right crossing the railway again at **km 7.2** and then passing by Fiammoi. At **km 9.4**, you arrive at Cusighe, and at the roundabout you take the third exit, via Cusighe. The road becomes one-way with a well-marked cycle-footpath that leads to Cavarzano and – at **km 11.2** – at the Alpini bridge, recently restructured and preceded by an artistic reproduction of an alpine soldier's hat.

Once over the bridge you take the underpass to arrive safely on the opposite side and bypass the roundabout, then you turn into viale Fantuzzi and crossing the road you merge onto the cycle-footpath route that leads to the Belluno railway station, at **km 11.8**. From here, turning left, you quickly reach the centre of the city and **piazza dei Martiri**, the so-called **Campedel**.



Belluno, pedalling in Piazza del Duomo



Belluno: fascinating encounters with history

Belluno, capital of the province, is an enchanting city located above the Piave river; its rich historical centre hosts prestigious old and frescoed palaces, beautiful monumental doors, streets with porticos, fascinating views, the Cathedral, interesting museums like the Civic Museum, the large piazza dei Martiri, the Rectors' Palace. Pleasant coffee bars with panoramic views invite you to take a break and enjoy the beauty of the city.



Belluno-Feltre-Belluno (Paiane) tour of Valbelluna - 101.3 km

From Belluno you can decide to carry out an interesting tour which will let you get to know Valbelluna and the splendid city of Feltre, continuing then along the left of the Piave until you reconnect with the Munich-Venice cycleway, at Paiane, towards the Santa Croce Lake. The route is certainly interesting but also difficult. Starting from **piazza dei Martiri, Campedel**, in front of the nineteenth century Town Theatre, you head into the narrow streets of the centre (via Sebastiano Ricci and via Jacopo Tasso) and continue straight on along via Fantuzzi. At **km 0.6** you reach the Rotonda della Cerva (at the crossroad with the Alpini bridge), you continue straight





National Park of the Dolomiti Bellunesi

The southernmost area of the Dolomites is part of the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park: an environment featuring natural treasures of inestimable value, ready to be discovered. The variety of landscapes offered by these mountains is particularly striking during summer time, when the rolling plateaus and grassy peaks transform into a profusion of colors due to the flourishing blooms.

The Monti del Sole mountains are the most wild and mysterious heart of the Belluno Dolomites and boast spectacles of incredible beauty such as the Soffia Waterfalls. The geological and geomorphological phenomena are a true attraction for visitors, such as the characteristic “pot-holes” of the Brenton stream and the “cirques” of the Vette Feltrine, traces of ancient glaciers which have now disappeared.

on along via Col di Lana and via Gregorio XVI, then at **km 1.4** turn right along via Travazzoi and go straight to the main road that leads to the village of Vezzano. Pedalling along the nice mixed traffic road, you reach Bolzano Bellunese and at **km 3.7**, you turn sharp left towards Tisoï, a village that you reach with a nice panoramic path at **km 5.2**, when you arrive in front of the church. Turn left here immediately, going slightly downhill and after 100 metres you keep to the right, towards Libano and Mas.

Now the road has some pleasant undulations first at Bolago – **km 7.4** – and then until Ponte Mas, which you reach at **km 10.1**. You enter the regional Agordina road keeping to the right and immediately after – at **km 10.2** – turn left crossing the bridge over the Cordevole stream, and at the next fork, keep to the right and enter the green of the Dolomiti

Feltrine, inside the National Park of the Dolomiti Bellunesi. Now the road is spectacular, with a lot of quite difficult uphill and downhill stretches, with quite limited mixed traffic; at **km 12.3** you reach the important **Certosa di Vedana** (405 m a.s.l.), in the municipality of Sospirolo. The large monastic complex (at present a cloistered monastery and so cannot be visited) was built in the XV century on the



Belluno, Piazza dei Martiri (or Piazza Campedel)

old hospice of Saint Mark and is inserted in an uncontaminated and rugged environment, at the foot of huge boulders and surrounded by thick vegetation.

Continuing, you leave the Vedana Lake to your left and then among frequent undulations, at **km 14.0**, you pass the Mis stream, near Regolanova and immediately after you keep to the right along the B road 2 towards Sospirolo; at **km 15.0**, slightly uphill, you keep to the left (going right you would reach the evocative Mis Valley with its beautiful lake) and you pedal until you arrive in front of the church in Sospirolo (447 m a.s.l.), at **16.2**. At **km 16.4**, at the roundabout you turn right towards Feltre and continue in the middle Valbelluna; at **km 19.1** you pass through the village of San Zenon, then you go up to reach Carazzai at **km 22.2** and finally, at **km 23.8**, you pass through San Gregorio nelle Alpi (526 m a.s.l.), at the



foot of mount Pizzocco. Carry on along the local road 12 which leads, with a quite lively but panoramic path, at **km 26.8**, to Cergnai. At **km 27.3** you leave the B road 12 turning right into via Morzanch, which leads uphill to the centre of Cesiomaggiore (479 m a.s.l.) at **km 29.1**, this has become the town of cycling, all the roads are named after champions, putting the new street name next to the traditional one.

Here there are two interesting museums: one is the **Toni Bevilacqua Historical Bicycle Museum** (www.museostoricodellabiciletta.it), with a wonderful collection of more than 170 historical bicycles, from the celerifere to the velocipede, from bikes used during the Great War and those used for work, from those of past champions to the futuristic ones of the present champions.

The other one, in Seravella, is the **Ethnographic Museum of the Province of Belluno and**



the National park of the Dolomiti Bellunesi (www.museoetnograficodolomiti.it) which offers a cross-section of the popular traditions of this mountain area with exhibitions of objects and documentary materials that are very particular and interesting.

Returning to the B road 12, continue the nice panoramic route along the Valbelluna, a little difficult due to the continuous undulations; you pass through the villages of Cesiominore at **km 29.9**, Can at **km 31.0**, Soranzen at **km 32.5**, Fianema at **km 33.9**, Villabruna at **km 35.4**.

Leave the B road at **km 37.7** and keep to the right along via Foen, passing the village of Foen at **km 38.3**, then go right along via Vallina where you pedal amidst greenery, until you reach at **km 39.4**, the indication that you are entering Murle.

Then go straight ahead and at **km 40.6** you reach Pedavena (356 m a.s.l.), turning left into



viale Vittorio Veneto; at **km 41.1** you pass in front of the **Pedavena Brewery** which is over 100 years old. As well as tasting the foamy beer, you can see the magnificent brewing room with its Liberty style decorations, mosaics, stuccos and the enormous copper boilers; if you book in advance, you can visit the factory and the large park next to it.

You are now at the entrance to Feltre (325 m a.s.l.) and you will reach the historical centre at **km 44.5**.

After visiting the splendid town (don't miss the Civic Museum, the Carlo Rizzarda Modern Art Gallery, the Church Museum and the Piazza Duomo Archaeological Museum), start off once again at **km 44.5**, at the foot of the town walls, pedalling along the cobbled main road, via 31 Ottobre and continue into viale del Piave. Going straight on you reach a roundabout, where you turn left (third exit), uphill until you turn

into via Cavour (following the signs for the Germanic cemetery).

The path becomes narrower as you leave the town and make your way into the green countryside; at **km 46.2** you reach a fork and keep to the right, then after 100 metres the path becomes a real cycling path which at **km 46.6** turns left into via Vigne Basse, at Anzù.

At **km 47.6** after passing under the railway, you join the B road going to the left: you are now at the foot of the **Sanctuary of the Saints Vittore and Corona** (344 m a.s.l.), set on an overhanging rock, this can be reached using a footpath with steps or a difficult asphalted uphill climb. It was built in the XII century in Romanesque style with Byzantine influence, it is embellished by a cloister while inside there are some impressive brightly coloured frescoes (www.santivittoreecorona.it). Continue along the B road and at **km 48.2** turn right

crossing a bridge over a canal and turn immediately into via Celarda, until at **km 50.1** you turn sharp left along via Eccelino da Celarda: you are very near the important **Vincheto di Celarda Nature Reserve**, on the banks of the Piave, an internationally known biogenetic and wetland nature reserve.

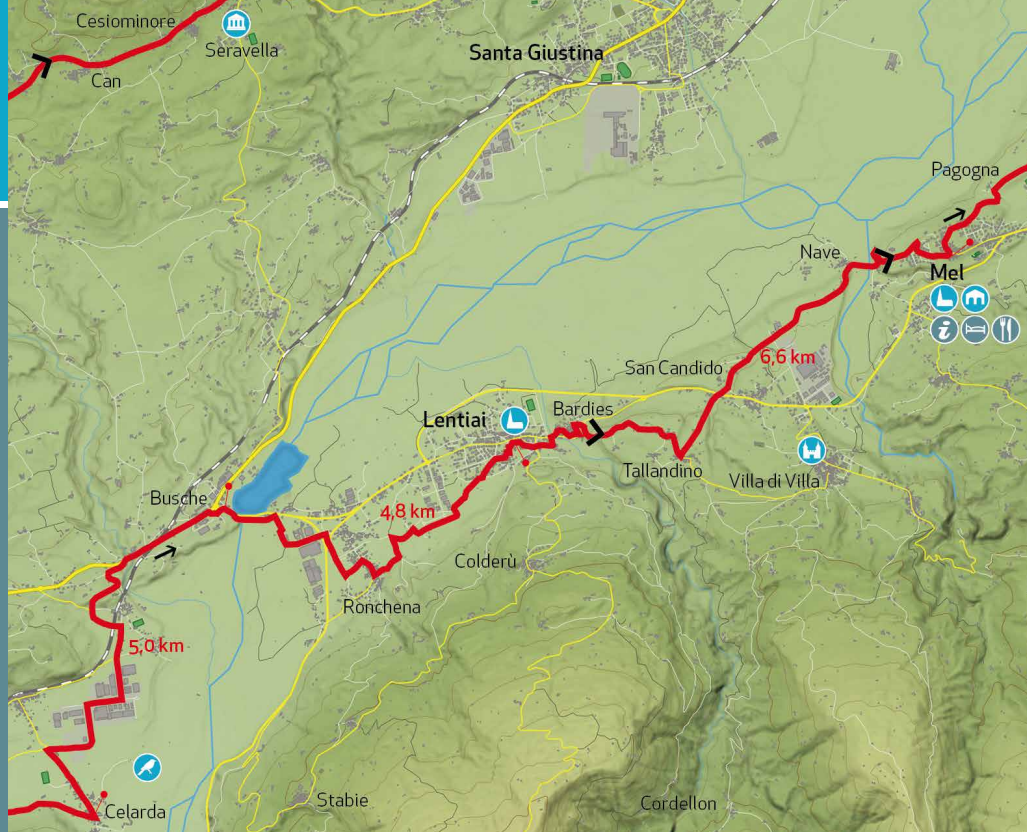
Going straight on, at **km 51.0**, you turn right at the roundabout and pass the Villapaiera industrial area, then at **km 53.0** you turn sharp left following the signs for Belluno/Feltre, then pass under the railway and proceed along the B road which winds into this beautiful valley, until at **km 54.2** you join the primary road, going to the right, towards the centre of Busche, suburb of Cesiomaggiore.

At **km 55.1**, just before the roundabout and near the enormous Lattebusche dairy – which also produces the popular Piave cheese – turn right along the old bridge over the Piave, now

Feltre, a lively Renaissance town

Feltre is a splendid Renaissance town with a typically Venetian influence, with its long main road, with many prestigious palaces looking onto it, which rises to the picturesque **Piazza Maggiore**, adorned with the **Column of St Mark** and the statues of famous citizens like **Vittorino da Feltre** and **Panfilo Castaldi**. There is also the **Palazzo della Ragione** whose large salon was transformed in the XVII century into a theatre that still holds interesting events.





exclusively a cycling path and where there is the dam that forms the Busche artificial basin. At **km 57.5** you pass through Ronchena, then go to the left along via Antonio Solagna to reach, at **km 59.9**, the centre of Lentiai (262 m a.s.l.), in piazza Crivellaro, where there is the **chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta**, which contains numerous works by the Vecellio family – Cesare, Francesco and also a polyptych from

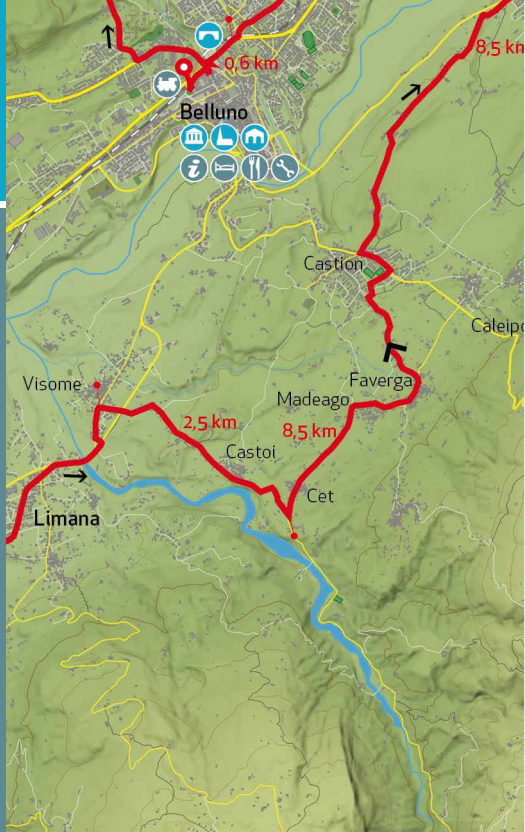


Busche, the town famous for its cheese



Titian's school – as well as some works by Palma the Younger and Giovanni da Mel. Cesare Vecellio's panelled ceiling is worth seeing: it is certainly not by chance that this religious building has been declared a national monument!

Continue along via Vecellio and at **km 60.6**, you pass Bardies and then follow a narrow panoramic road which winds into greenery until, at **km 62.3** you reach Tallandino; here you turn sharp left into via Corte and at **km 63.5** you pass through the elongated village of San Candido. You are now on the left bank of the Piave, following the current towards Mel: looking up to your right you can glimpse the magnificent **Zumelle Castle** at Villa di Villa. It has Roman origins (for protecting and controlling Via Claudia Augusta Altinate), centre of all the local defence system, perfectly restored, it is the most well-kept manor house



in the whole Valbelluna. To admire it close up there is a difficult hill-climb, only for the most convinced...

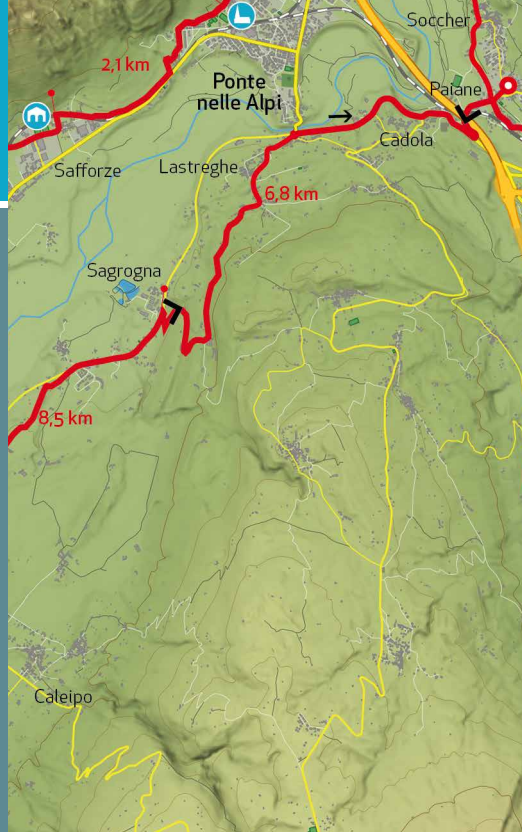
You then pass through Nave, then at **km 65.2** you cross the Terche stream, with its enormous gravel bed, then there is a climb with some bends and at **km 66.5** you reach Mel (352 m a.s.l.), in **piazza Luciani**, the central square with elegant Gothic-Venetians palaces. In the historical centre, there are important things to see such as: **Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità**, **Del Zotto Palace**, **Fulcis-Zadra House**, the frescoed **Barbuio-Francescon Palace**, the palace which hosts the old **Locanda Cappello** (Cappello Inn), which was already active in the XVIII century, which welcomes its clients into a historical building among stuccos and frescoes. Passing next to the parish church you take via Giovanni da Melo and at **km 66.9** leave it to take a cycling route on grass, the

Baden Powell path, which after 300 metres leads to an asphalted road, keeping to the left, then at **km 67.4** keep to the right and at **km 68.6** you reach Pagogna.

The aim is to avoid the busy Sinistra Piave B road 1, favouring smaller roads with less traffic; continuing straight on you arrive at Farra at **km 70.0**, then you head south following a stretch of the Ardo stream which you cross at



Mel, the Town Hall



km 71.2, using a bridge parallel to the B road. You pedal alongside the B road until **km 71.7** where you turn left into via Ponte Ardo, at **km 72.4** you pass Pialdier and San Felice at **km 73.8**; here you turn right and at **km 74.7** you cross the B road heading towards Cavassico Superiore (suburb of Trichiana), which you reach at **km 75.3** turning left onto the main road. You pass the Limana stream and at **km 76.0** turn left, then cross the B road again and at **km 77.1**, you reach Pieve di Limana, where you can see the old XI century **chiesa di Santa Barbara**.

From here you continue on a pleasant cycling route, well signed up, which leads, at **km 78.7**, to Cesa di Limana, where you pass in front of the eighteenth century **Villa Piloni-Castello**, surrounded by a large park personally designed by the gardener of Versailles, Alexandre Poiteau. Continuing straight on you ride

along via Matteo Cesa and then via degli Alpini, then at **km 80.1**, turn right onto a rough cycling path, you pass over the B road and at **km 81.5** you reach the centre of Limana, pleasant village which for centuries had been the ideal holiday place for the families from Belluno who had villas and residences spread out in the various small villages. Continuing straight on, at **km 82.5**, you join the B road, which at **km**



Zumelle Castle

82.8 takes you across the Cicogna stream, then at **km 83.0** keep to the right towards Visome and shortly after you pass under the B road itself; then at **km 83.5** turn right into via San Martino towards Castoi/Cet, passing over the B road once again. At **km 85.2**, you reach the church in Casstoi, then you continue amidst the green countryside along via Sotcal and at **km 86** turn sharp left, entering the village of Cet. The main road leads to the picturesque villages of Madeago and Faverga until, at **km 90**, you reach Castion, a suburb of Belluno (the provincial capital is a little less than 3 km away), nestled at the foot of Nevegal. Once you arrive on the B road 31 towards Belluno, at **km 90.1** turn right along via Pedecastello which winds into green countryside with some undulations, then at **km 94.0** you pass Sagrognà and at **km 94.5** turn right, into a quite difficult uphill climb, pedalling in an area characterised by the

presence of healing waters and oligo minerals. At **km 95.7** keep to the left, the climb finishes and you head towards Ponte nelle Alpi; when you arrive at Piaia, at a stop sign, at **km 98.7**, turn left, then slightly downhill towards Canevoi and then at **km 100.0**, just before a large crossroad, take the uphill road to the right. Turn left after a few hundred metres and descending you reach the cemetery and then at **km 100.7** you are near the large **Cadola church**. Here you cross the primary road, at **km 100.9**, you pass under the motorway and at **km 101.3** you reach Paiane, near the Cellina canal, which you cross. Here you immediately find the Munich-Venice cycling path that in about fifteen kilometres leads to Sella di Fadalto, passing first by Farra d'Alpago and the Santa Croce Lake.

INFO

Feltre

Tourist information: www.dolomitiprealpi.it,
info@dolomitiprealpi.it
 Possibility of food and lodgings, presence of mechanics.

Mel

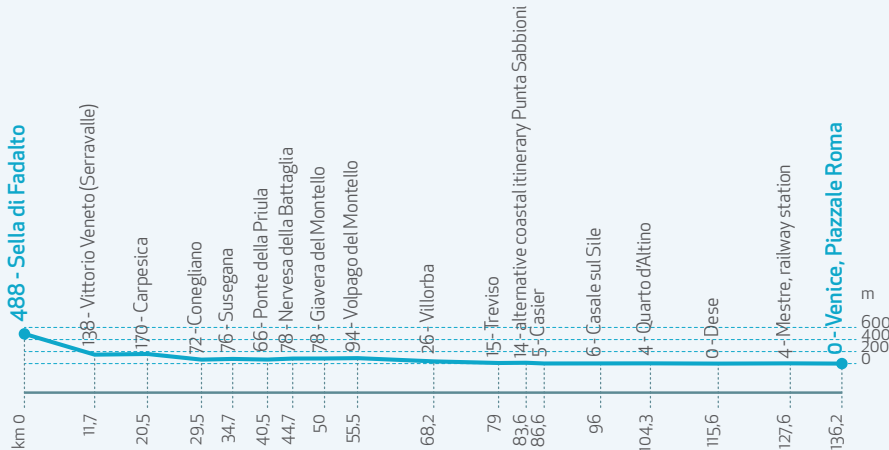
Tourist information: Ufficio turistico Sinistra Piave, piazza Papa Luciani 1,
 tel. +39.0437.544294,
turismo.mel@valbelluna.bl.it
 Possibility of food and lodgings.

THE GARDENS OF VENICE AND THE CITIES OF ART

Sella di Fadalto-Treviso-Venice
136.2 km

At the end of the last stretch which crosses the Veneto plain, cyclists are plunged into the enchanted atmosphere of the famous lagoon city or – if you prefer – the sea at Jesolo. Along the way, the enchanting towns of Vittorio Veneto and Conegliano are well worth a visit as well as the splendid town of Treviso and the archaeological site of Altino in the town of Quarto d'Altino.

With this tour, on flat and therefore relaxing paths, you will discover not only the various



shops with regional specialties and tasty products but also the extraordinary parks and gardens. These historical parks were born with their villas in the XVI and XVII centuries, when the rich Venetian nobility moved to the country to spend their holidays. Venice is full of gardens: many are hidden behind the high walls of the private palaces and others can be visited, like the small and



Treviso, water and porticos

silent Giardini Reali, only 50 metres from Saint Mark's Square, which offer an oasis of relaxation with a spectacular view over Saint Mark's lagoon.

Venice is one of the Art Cities of Europe and therefore enjoys international fame. It is also the seat of the Biennale Foundation where from June to November, with the festivals, exhibitions, art, music, dancing, theatre, cin-



Venice, the final destination of our journey

ema and architecture it is presented to a refined international audience.

Do you want more? The city with over one hundred islands invites you to visit museums that are renowned all over the world like **Palazzo Grassi, Peggy Guggenheim, Gallerie dell'Accademia** and **Ca' Rezzonico**.

You leave from Sella di Fadalto (487 m a.s.l.) which marks the border between the provinces of Belluno and Treviso, which you enter after descending for about 200 metres. The Alemagna primary road 51 is wide with little traffic as most of the circulation takes place on the motorway viaduct along the Val Lapisana which has been open since 1995, this valley connects the Upper Marca Trevigiana with Alpi. However, it is necessary to always PAY ATTENTION, also because the traffic reaches high speeds here: there are also a

lot of motor-bikes, often tilted to the side at the bends.

You glide easily, but we advise you to always be careful, towards the bottom of the valley, where there are some bends; at **km 3.8** there is a small road to the right which goes down to the big Morto Lake, fed by Karst underground basins and that we can see on our right. Continue downhill and you will come across the villages of Nove, Negrisiola and San Floriano, there are some slight slopes.

At **km 11.7** near Serravalle – just after meeting up with the B road 35 which leads to the Revine lake, Pieve di Soligo and Valdobbiadene – where there is a large car park, you leave the primary road keeping to the right and go into the beautiful, narrow and cobblestoned via Caprera which leads to the historical centre of Serravalle, one of the most characteristic places in Vittorio Veneto (138 m a.s.l.).

Beautiful palaces, old houses, some old taverns; at **km 12.1** the birthplace house of Alessandro Tandura, the first parachutist in the world during war action. Just after that, you pass in front of the church of Saint John the Baptist and on uphill cobblestones, in a no-entry street, via Mazzini ends and you go to **Porta San Giovanni** along via Roma, an old road full of beautiful palaces with the ancient Castrum on the left, for the defence of the historical city. Then, downhill (a bit rough, be careful) you pass in front of **Serravalle Castle**, then at **km 12.6** there is the splendid **Palace of the Community** [Palazzo della Comunità] home to the **Cenedese Museum** which looks onto **piazza Flaminio**. Keep to the right along the main road, via Martiri della Libertà (the old **Grand Canal**), with beautiful porticos and cobblestones, with many splendid important palaces (Minucci Palace stands out

Vittorio Veneto: a picturesque jewel

The city was born in 1866 (but was named Vittorio Veneto only after the First World War) from the union of the two historical places, Serravalle and Ceneda. The former was very important in Roman times, the latter during the Lombardic domination, they then both passed under the Republic of Venice. At Serravalle many mediæval palaces in Venetian style can be admired along **Cal Grande** and the **Cenedese Lodge**, while at Ceneda you can see the **Cathedral**, the **Bishops' Palace** and the renewed **Museum of the Battle of Vittorio Veneto**.





among these), the Da Ponte Theatre, dedicated to Lorenzo Da Ponte, Mozart's librettist, born here in 1749.

You pass the interesting church of St. Lawrence of the Flagellants, then at **km 12.8** turn left into piazza Foro Boario – where the solitary church of St. Joseph stands alone, a memorial to flags – and you take the cycling path along the Meschio River. The path is rough, on the right bank of the waterway, then at **km 13.4** go to the left crossing the road then the primary road and continue keeping the river on your left, you are now on a good asphalted road.

At **km 13.8** cross a small wooden bridge passing to the opposite bank, then at **km 14.1** you cross a road (CAREFUL!) and continue along via Vittorino Favaro, a nice cycling/footpath. At **km 14.9** turn left and then right in front of the local swimming pool, then you immediately

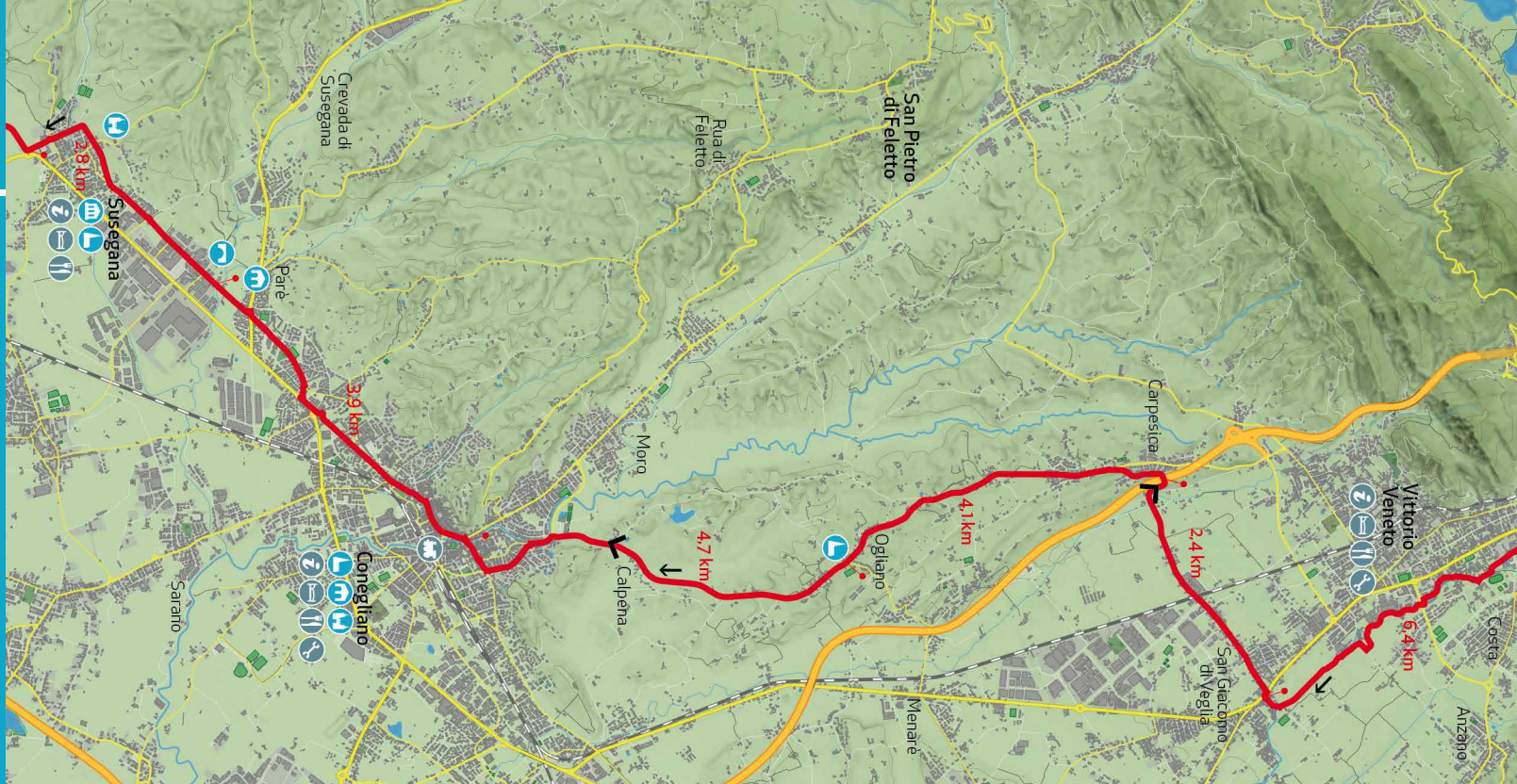
arrive in front of a technical school; follow the road, turn left, enter a big car park and turn right following the signs of the Ippovia [bridle track] (marked with TV5).

Then you pass a bridge over the Meschio and at **km 15.3** turn left into via del Maniero keeping the river to your left: you ride next to piazza Meschio and the big church, at **km 15.6** you enter an abandoned industrial area. Turn left immediately along via Vittorino Favaro, passing two small consecutive wooden bridges and then pass under the primary road: the cycling path now winds among the green countryside and splendid vineyards. It is a really nice ride, every now and then you come across fishermen on the river banks, which you always keep to your right; there are some inviting benches, some small waterfalls, gentle bends among the vineyards, then at **km 16.8** turn right and then immediately

left and start following the Meschio river which winds into the countryside. The cycling path finishes at **km 18.0**, cross a bridge on the right, keep to the right on via Postumia and at **km 18.1** you join the primary road turning right, after 20 metres, at the traffic light, cross it turning left into via Cal de Livera. Now you pedal on a kind of cycling pavement that disappears after a while and you contin-



Prosecco vineyards



ue on a mixed traffic road that leads to the beginning of the Vittorio Veneto Sud toll-booths of the A27 motorway. At **km 19.4** you cross the railway lines.

At **km 20.5**, you start climbing to pass over the motorway and you reach Carpesica (170 m a.s.l.): there are 300 metres at 10%, a very steep climb. Continue going uphill, although with less difficulty, and at **km 21.5** you ar-



The castle in Conegliano

rive at the B 103 road; keeping to the left and downhill at **km 21.9** turn right towards Ogliano and Conegliano.

At **km 23.0** there is another steep climb and afterwards, fortunately, there is the corresponding descent, with a panoramic view of the vineyards; then at **km 24.6** – still going downhill – you pass Ogliano (152 m a.s.l.), exactly below the towering church of the Assumption. Continue straight on following the directions for Conegliano, still on a mixed traffic road, with some undulations, then you arrive at a group of houses, the village of Calpena, and at **km 27.2** there is a steep uphill climb.

At **km 28.1** turn left towards the centre, there is a cycling path beside the Monticano river which continues along via Carpenè and at **km 28.9**, at a roundabout, turn right along via Madonna which leads into the beautiful town centre; at **km 29.3** you cross the Monticano

Conegliano: the tradition of vine growing in the foothills of the Alps

The city of Conegliano is dominated by its picturesque castle: below it, there is the historical centre with its beautiful palaces, **piazza Cima**, the **School of the Flagellants** and the **Cathedral** that contains a magnificent altar-piece by the wonderful local old master, the painter Cima da Conegliano. The oenology (wine-making) school in Conegliano is very interesting, the oldest oenology school in Italy, as this is an exceptional area for wine production: **home of Prosecco** and other prestigious wines.





river. Continue along the main road in Conegliano (72 m a.s.l.), leaving the railway station to your left at **km 29.7**. On your right there is the old village and the **Contrada Granda** with its splendid noble palaces; don't miss a visit to the **Cathedral** and the spectacular **Castle**.

You leave the city going to the south-west following the road signs for Treviso and pedalling along the cycling path next to the hospital, then at **km 30.9** – at a traffic light – you continue straight on leaving the detour towards the important Oenology school of Conegliano to your right, you pass a large roundabout and go straight along the cycling path. Shortly after, at **km 31.7** where there is a petrol pump – turn right into via Marescalchi and turn sharp left into via Belluno and then left again into via Einaudi which leads into the centre of Parè, where there are some interesting Venetian villas.

Continuing straight on you pedal amidst the green countryside, with gentle hillsides on the horizon, then at **km 33.2** you pass the Crevada stream: on your right from here you can see the broken arch of a beautiful mediaeval bridge – called Ponte Romano [Roman Bridge] – on the road which connected the large estate of the Collalto counts with the Free Town of Conegliano.



San Salvatore Castle

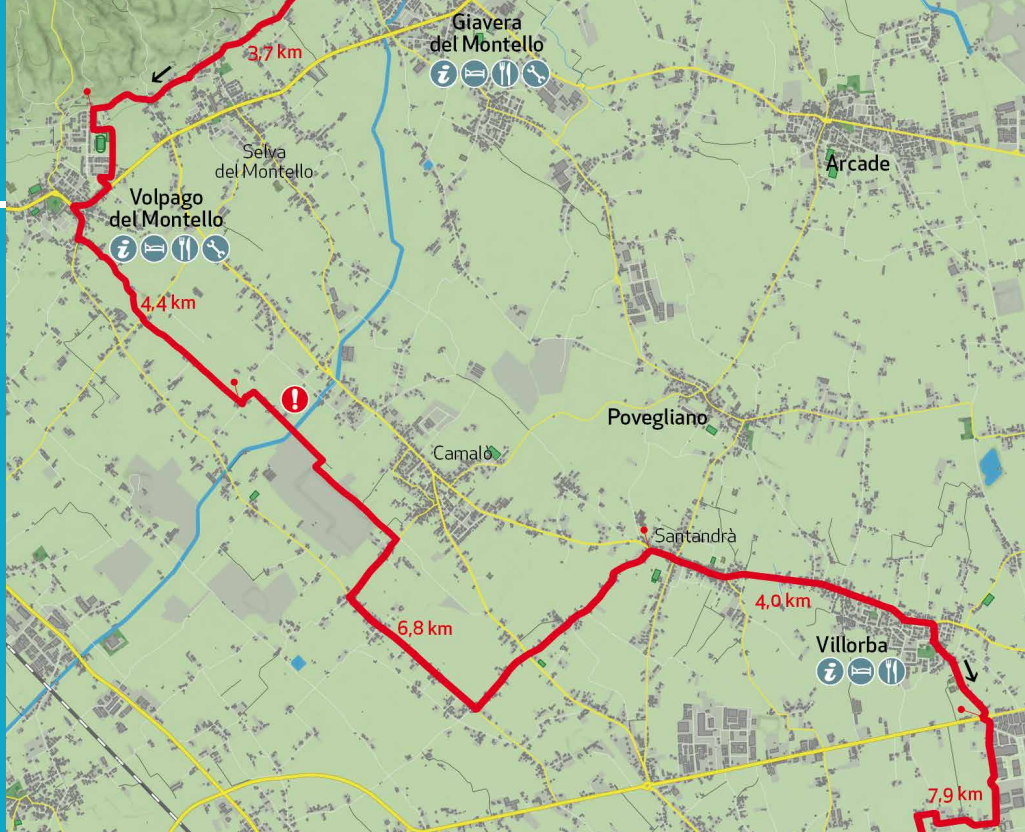
Continue straight on and you approach the big castle of San Salvatore, at Susegana, a splendid example of a XIV fortified village, belonging to the historical Collalto family. At **km 34.2**, on a cycling path, you arrive at a fork with via Barriera on the right: we continue straight on but if you turn right, after a 1 km detour you arrive, with a steep uphill climb, at the interesting **Museum of Mankind** (www.museodelluomo.altervista.org), an ethnographic collection about country life and old crafts held in a fascinating farmhouse.

At **km 34.7**, you enter the centre of Susegana, where you can see the Neo-Classical **church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, then at **km 35.8**, at a first roundabout there is a detour to the right towards **San Salvatore Castle**, you shouldn't miss this, with a steep climb of about 700 metres.

Continuing straight on, at the next round-

San Salvatore Castle

This impressive monumental complex (www.castellosansalvatore.it), a splendid example of a XIV century fortified village, is formed by a walled village and the fort itself, with a drawbridge; it was often in the background of landscapes by the painter Cima da Conegliano. During the First World War it was heavily damaged and had to be extensively restored; there is also the eighteenth century **Oduardo Palace**, a magnificent residence, the **Turris Magna**, the **church of Saint John** and the **church of the Holy Cross**. The owners still live in the village as well as some employees of the large farm, you can appreciate its size from the wonderful terrace with a panoramic view over the vineyards and pastures that stretch as far as the eye can see and where cows, horses and donkeys roam free.



about, at **km 36.0**, take the first road on the right, via Barca I, which leads among the vineyards towards Collalto, at the foot of the large castle estate. You continue along the B road 138 and at **km 37.8** – where there is the road sign for Collalto – you turn left into via Maglio, which at **km 38.9** joins the B road with the cycling path. Here, still on a cycling path, turn left and at **km 39.3** turn left using a narrow cycling-footpath that after 100 metres leads into via Pascoli, where you keep to the left.

You are now at Ponte della Priula, at the foot of the Piave river bank, the river which is sacred to the country, and at **km 40.5** you arrive at the big bridge, which you cross. You will glimpse the tall bell-tower of the **Votive Temple of the European Fraternity** on your left. Once you arrive on the other side, at **km 41.2** turn right immediately and continue along-

side the river on a very wide but not busy road, riding near some large quarries for the extraction of gravel from the Piave, until at **km 44.7** you reach the centre of Nervesa della Battaglia.

At Nervesa you should visit the hangar with reproductions of aircraft from the First World War (www.jonathanaereistorici.it). Turn right at the traffic light and then fol-



Nervesa della Battaglia, Military Memorial

low the first on the left, via Luzzati, which with a steep climb leads, at **km 45.5**, to a road with a little more traffic and you keep to the left. Now you descend, at the first fork go to the right and pass by the narrow road which leads to the important **Nervesa della Battaglia Military Memorial**, which stands out for some kilometres on the hilltop: here there are the remains of 9235 Italian soldiers, most



Nervesa della Battaglia, the ruins of the Saint Eustace Abbey

of whom died during the so-called Solstice Battle (June 1918), the last desperate Austrian onslaught.

You continue straight ahead and at **km 46.4**, you reach the ruins of the famous old **Saint Eustace abbey**, an important Benedictine monastery which over the centuries has hosted many important and powerful people, from Pietro Aretino to Gaspara Stampa to monsignor Giovanni Della Casa, who composed his immortal work here, *Book of Manners*. The monastery was later suppressed, transformed into a provostship, then abandoned, to fall into ruins during the First World War; you can reach it thanks to a brief path and it offers wonderful views.

Continuing straight on, at **km 47.0**, you attack the first "presa" (here on Montello the twenty-one short but difficult transversal ramps which lead to the peak are called "prese"),

this leads to the **Francesco Baracca chapel**, near the place where this Italian pioneering aviator fell to his death on June 19, 1918, during the Solstice Battle. Go straight on at the foot of Montello, this strange elevation which is a small mountain rather than a hill, whose woods (oak trees) were strategic for the Republic of Venice, given the importance of timber which was essential for shipbuilding.



At the foot of Montello, the "Stradon del Bosco"

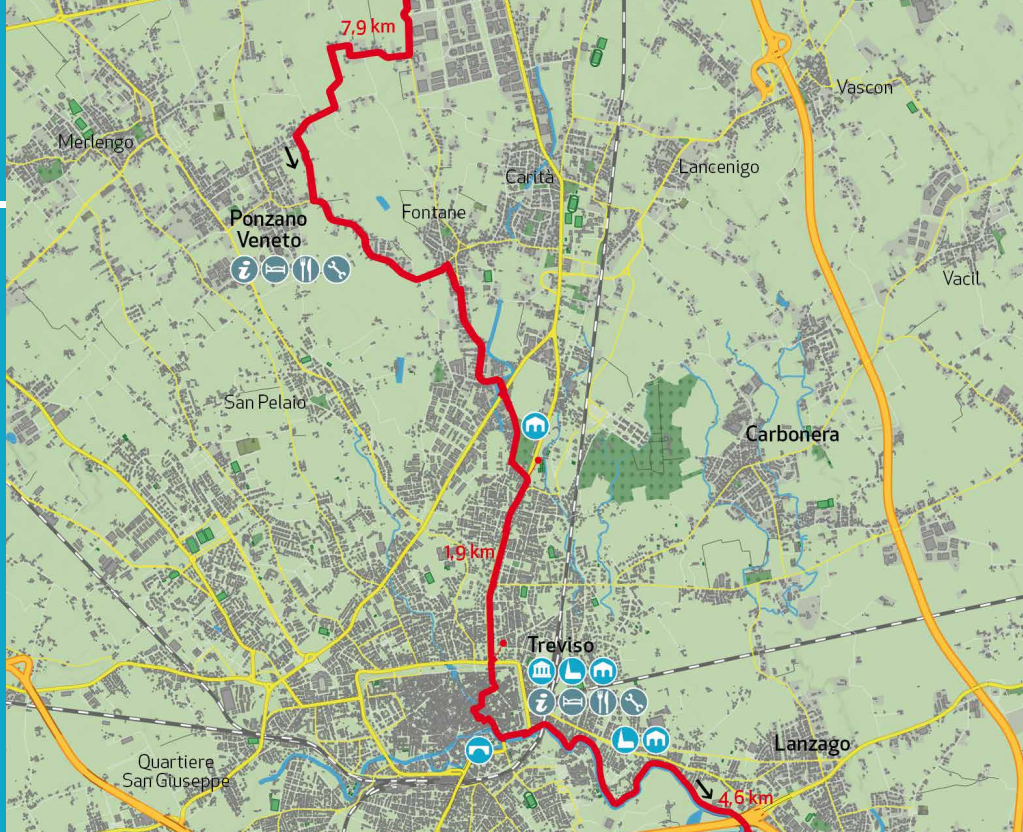
At **km 50.3** you pass in front of the **British Cemetery** at Giavera del Montello, perfectly looked after, which contains 417 white tombstones, all exactly the same, one for each of those who fell on the Italian front.

Continue along the splendid Stradon del Bosco which runs along the foot of the hill next to the beautiful waterway, the Bosco Canal. At **km 53.8** you pass in front of the large Barchessa Loredan and then at **km 54.0** turn left into via Leonardo Da Vinci, in the town of Volpago del Montello; you ride next to the sports field in via Carlo Scarpa, then at **km 55.0** go to the left and you immediately join the B road 248, where you keep to right on a cycling lane.

At **km 55.5**, in Volpago del Montello, at the roundabout you leave the B road and turn left into via San Pio X and at **km 55.8** go to the left along via Indipendenza, which leads into the

Montello

It appears almost suddenly right in the middle of the Treviso plain, watered by the Piave River and it is a real paradise for cyclists from the Veneto region. An ideal gym for bike-lovers, its woody slopes offer many paths for all tastes, as you can choose from short, difficult ramps (the twenty-one transversal "prese" which reach the top), or gentle undulations (the so-called "backbone" which runs along the crest), or the pleasant circumnavigation, the "panoramic" ride, which develops at its foot (partly along the evocative Brentella canal), making it possible to appreciate the woodlands of the Serenisima and going close to the beautiful centres of Nervesa, Giavera, Volpago, Venegazzù, Montebelluna and Crocetta. The complete circumnavigation is carried out along 35 really pleasant kilometres.



gentle countryside. Now it is necessary to be a little careful: the route towards Treviso is not always linear, you always have to follow the changes in direction.

In fact, leave the road at **km 56.1** and go straight on passing under an opening on gravel, an old railway bed, and you arrive in via Pestegada, asphalted, a nice country ride amidst cultivated fields and vineyards: at **km 56.5**, the narrow road becomes rough, although easy to pedal on. At **km 56.9** cross via Schiavonesca Vecchia and continue ahead on the rough road and at **km 58.2** you meet an asphalted road, turn left and at **km 58.4** turn right into via Fornace Vecchia and continue straight on. Just after – at **km 58.8** – the road becomes rough again and is quite bumpy (be CAREFUL), then you cross a stream and at **km 59.3** you reach a crossroad, near an abandoned house: go to the left and still on a

bumpy rough road continue straight on until at **km 59.7** asphalt appears again. Overall, the difficult road is less than a kilometre.

Ride on, keeping a large quarry to your right, then at **km 60.5** turn right into via Postioma and at **km 61.2**, at a roundabout, go to the left into via Volpago Nord, towards Ponzano Veneto. Continue straight on and at **km 62.8** turn left into via Schiavonesca Vecchia, then



Treviso, Dante Bridge

at **km 63.8** cross the B road 55 and continue straight on into via Barrucchella passing through Santandrà, in the centre of the town, at **km 65.2** turn right along the B road 48. At **km 65.8** you pass in front of the big parish church and continue straight on towards Villorba, then at **km 68.2** go right to enter the town; continue along via Trento on a cycling path and at **km 68.8** you pass the big cemetery, then at **km 69.2** you cross the B road 102, continuing straight on, using a separate cycling path, along via Trieste. At **km 70.4** leave the cycling path turning sharp right into via Colombero, following its numerous bends until you reach a fork, at **km 71.1**, go to the left and then at **km 71.9**, turn right into via Pola and then left at **km 72.3** along via del Mason until you go into via Fontane at **km 73.0**. Go straight into via Pegorile until at **km 74.7** you turn right and at **km 75.0** you go onto the

Treviso: the city of the silent canals

The historical centre of Treviso, with its dream-like canals, is surrounded by integral walls: the historical houses, the harbours and the evocative plazas make Treviso a masterpiece of which piazza dei Signori is the centre. The palaces, the porticos, the little shops and numerous coffee bars make the city a well-loved meeting place, with a very pleasant atmosphere. The province is not less fascinating, with its Palladian villas, Montello, the Prosecco vineyards...



cycling path in via Fontane, in the village of Fontana, municipality of Villorba. Then you pass through Fontane Chiesa Vecchia and at **km 76.2** you ride alongside the Sant'Artemio Horse-racing track on the left, then the historical park of the beautiful **Villa Zorzi Farsetti Veronese Felissent**. At **km 77.1**, you reach the Pontebbana primary road 13 turning left on a cycling path.

Continuing along the cycling path, you pedal straight on until you reach, at **km 79.0**, the magnificent marble **Porta San Tomaso**, one of the splendid doors of Treviso. The historical centre of Treviso is contained within sixteenth century walls erected by the Venetians, and the heart of the city is undoubtedly **piazza dei Signori** with its **Palazzo dei Trecento** [Palace of the Three Hundred] (or of the **Ragione**). Don't miss the Romanesque **Loggia dei Cavalieri** [Knights' Lodge], **Ca' dei Carra-**

resi [Carraresi House] with its exhibitions, the monumental doors, the **Monte di Pietà** [pawnbrokers], the mediaeval **Ca' da Noal**, the **Cathedral**, the **church of St. Francis**, the **church of St. Nicolas** with its important frescoes kept in the convent, the **Saint Catherine complex**, the **Diocesan Museum**, the **Episcopal Seminary Museum**.

Once you have entered the historical centre

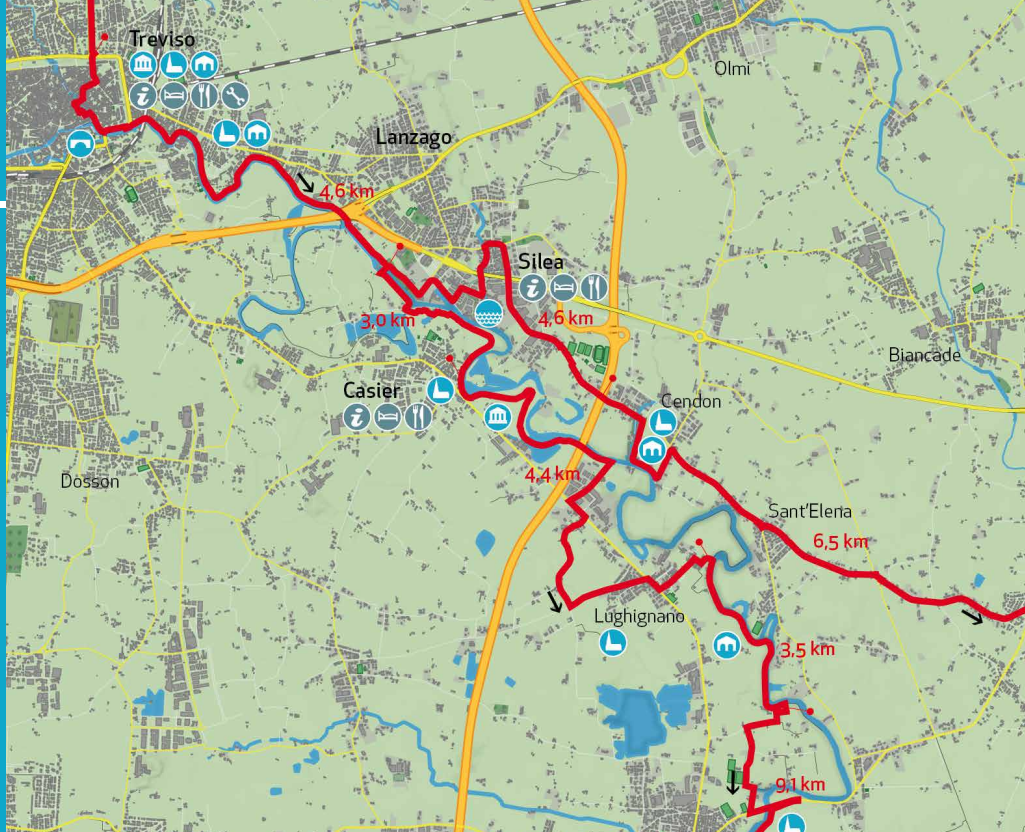


Treviso, in the town centre along the Sile

of Treviso, a city with a very good relationship with the world of bicycles and its production as it is the home of one of the most well-known brands at a world level, you continue along the numerous cycle paths. Crossing a large plaza, Borgo Mazzini, longitudinally, at **km 79.3** you turn right into the narrow, cobblestoned via Sant'Agostino, and you are in front of the eighteenth century **church of St.**



Treviso, a glimpse of the Buranelli Canal



Augustine turn left and then at **km 79.5** – in via San Leonardo – keep to the right and after 100 metres turn left to reach piazza Santa Maria dei Battuti. Here you turn right into via Sant’Agata which you follow until you arrive, at **80.0**, on the banks of the river Sile, in rivi-
era Garibaldi, at **Ponte Dante**, exactly where it meets with the Cagnan canal, with a mon-
ument to the great poet which indicates this exact place with the verse “where Sile and Cagnan meet” in the IX canto of the *Paradise*. Continuing along the Sile, which you keep to your right, you go into the wide viale Torqua-
to Tasso to then leave it at **km 80.4** (it bends to the left), to continue straight on into the narrow via Alsazia, which is asphalted, where the beautiful route signed up as the so-called “restère” of the Sile starts, that is the towpath where the oxen pulled against the current – with the help of strong ropes

called “reste” – the boats which transported goods, the “burci”.

Just after, at **km 80.6** you pass under the railway bridge (“Ponte della Gobba” [Humped Bridge] and you pedal along, plunged into nature, among weeping willows, ducks, swans benches on the river banks, wooden landing stages looking onto the placid waters of the river. You come across a stretch of light gravel of about 500 metres, then the path becomes asphalted again and at **km 82.0**, you reach Porto di Fiera, with a few houses which were once the simple homes of boatmen and millers. Here you can see the **church of St. Ambrose** and some beautiful Venetian villas, among which **Villa Ninni Carrisi** with its wonderful park. Continue along the enchanting route on the left bank, at **km 83.4** you pass under two viaducts of the bypass near the town of Silea and at **km 83.6** a small, nar-

row, cement bridge appears which you cross, moving to the opposite side of the river and turning left immediately, along the asphalted via Tappi.

Instead, going straight on without crossing the bridge there is the detour which leads towards Roncade, Monastier, Zenson di Piave, Fossalta di Piave, San Donà di Piave, Caposile, Jesolo, Cavallino, Punta Sabbioni,

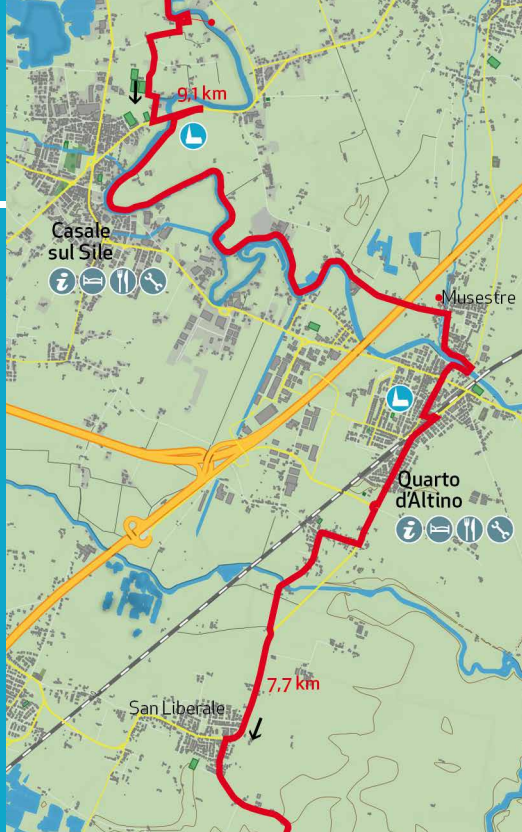


Rowing along the Sile

to reach Venice by motor-boat (see p. 142-156). Shortly after, to your left, at **84.2**, you leave the Silea power station and continue straight on until you leave via Tappi at **km 84.7**, turning left to wind into what is perhaps the most evocative route along the Sile, the famous wooden footpath which lets you pedal above the main course of the river, where there is a kind of large meander, near



Casier, the “burci cemetery”



what is called the “**cemetery of the burci**” as during the 1970’s these transport boats were abandoned for road transport, and were sunk by their owners as a protest. The skeletons of the boats still emerge today. The stretch suspended over the water is about 500 metres long it starts at **km 84.8** and ends at **km 85.3**; you should enjoy this to the utmost also taking photographs of this really particular environment.

At the end of the wooden footpath, you pedal along a light gravel road then at **km 86.3**, where there is the car park, the route becomes asphalted once again and you can glimpse the tall bell-tower at Casier, you will reach the town centre at **km 86.6** in piazza San Pio X.

Continue along the old Casier harbour and the path winds its way along the river among weeping willows, then at **km 87.5** you pass

in front of the modern **P.A.R.CO. Pavilion of Contemporary Art**, then you pass a couple of equipped rest areas and a big dock area where you can hire houseboats (www.houseboat.it). At **km 88.2** pass under the motorway and proceed straight on along a new path which runs next to the Sile at Cendon, which is on the opposite bank. Here you find a “passo a barca” [a small ferry]



Casier, the centre

(Passo a barca di Cendon, tel. +39.377.4453153, www.parcodelsile.it) which at fixed times ferries bikes and cyclists to the other bank, where you can continue descending the Sile towards Casale sul Sile. If you feel like it...

Instead, you carry straight on, along a beautiful path on stabilised ground which has some nice “snakes”, then you cross another bridge at **km 90.0** and pass inside the Lughignano



Casale sul Sile, pedalling through the centre

industrial area, where you find the historical **Lughignano parish church**, already mentioned in 1152, with a Romanesque apse and a bell-tower. Then at **km 91.0** you return to the Sile towpath and continue on a rough path next to the meandering waterway with splendid eighteenth centuries villas along the way; this is a really pleasant stretch, with willows, shrubs, reeds, a lot of birds, and continuous bends in the river.

At **km 94.5** you leave the Sile turning sharp right along the asphalted via Rivalta, at **km 95.1** turn left into via Vicinale Rivalta (following the signs for “Campi Sportivi” [sports fields], at **km 95.5** you reach the rugby pitch, “national” sport at Casale sul Sile, you have a short rough stretch and then you arrive at the B road at **km 96.0**.

Here you turn left (the centre of Casale sul Sile is 300 metres to the right...), you cross the

bridge over the Sile on a brand new cycling bridge and descend along via Francesco d’Assisi and continue on the opposite side of the river, that is the left bank, on a wide dirt road which is easy to pedal on. At **km 97.7** you are in front (on the other side) of the large **Saint Nicolas parish church** at Casale sul Sile, which contains a canvas by Gian Domenico Tiepolo and you continue along pleasantly on the left



Casale sul Sile, the dock

bank of the Sile, the river is particularly winding in this stretch. At **km 99.1** a very recent route begins, this is also on stabilised ground, and leads you alongside a large furnace, then at **km 101.6** you proceed for 100 metres along a B road to then take up the rough path again which leads at **km 103.6** to the beautiful centre of Musestre di Roncade.

Continuing straight on you reach the bridge



Altino, archaeological ruins

over the Sile, which you cross at **km 103.9** going to the right and entering the province of Venice, Quarto D'Altino to be precise.

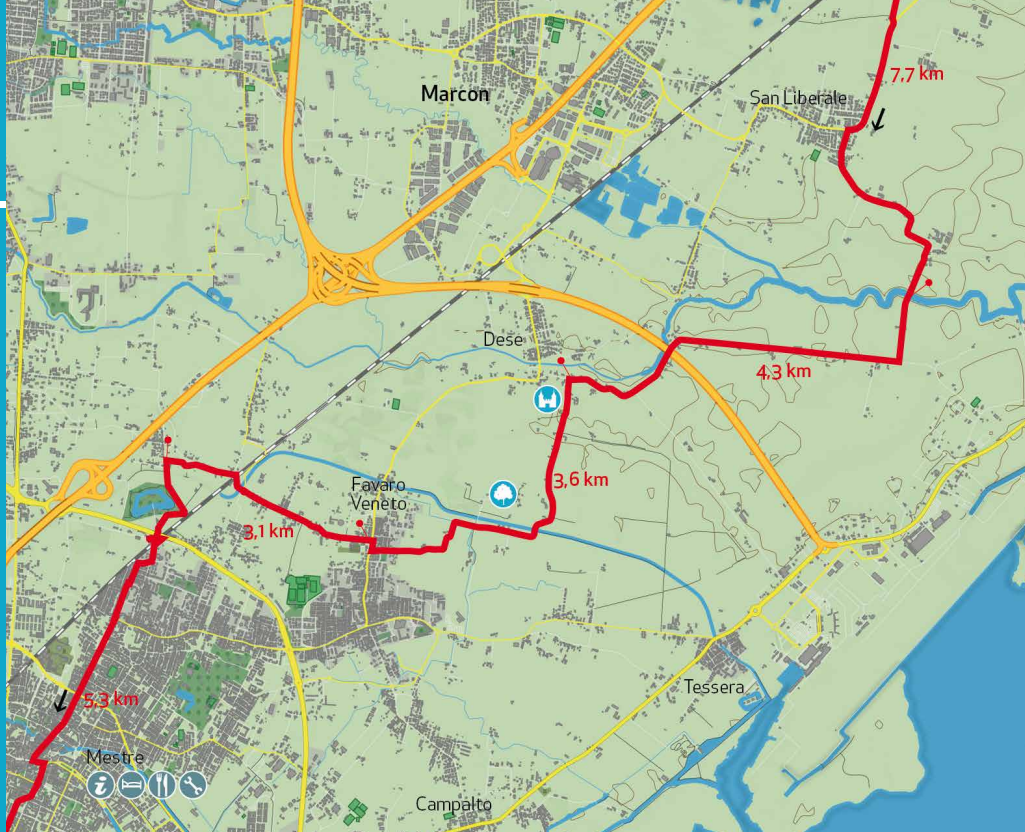
At **km 104.0**, after crossing the bridge, if you turn left a nice rough road begins which continues alongside the Sile towards Portegrandi (about 9 km) to then carry on towards Caposile and Jesolo, while if you take the main road that turns right you reach, at **km 104.3**, the roundabout in front of the **church of Saint Michael Archangel** at Quarto d'Altino.

Continue straight along via Stazione, then at **km 104.7** turn left passing under the railway and continue along the B road, then at **km 105.9** you meet a roundabout and at **106.4** turn right along viale della Resistenza, towards Le Crete. Carry on along the main road and at **km 107.5**, you cross a small bridge over the river Zero and at **km 108.0** you return along the B road, which you leave again at **km 109.2** – at

Quarto d'Altino: archaeological jewel

This town with its more than eight thousand inhabitants is between Treviso, Venice and the beaches at Jesolo, at exactly a quarter of a mile from the Roman town of Altino, as the name shows. This was the starting point of the Via Claudia Augusta and was located along the important roads that led towards Oderzo and Treviso, Altino was an important trading centre also due to its access to the Adriatic. Today it is known for its wonderful national archaeological museum, it is also an excellent base for an excursion to Venice that can be reached from here by water.





San Liberale di Marcon – turning left along via Zuccarello. Pedalling in the green countryside, at **km 110.9** there is a wide right-hand bend and just after – at **111.3** – there is the beautiful Ponte Alto bridge which crosses the Desè river, then a little further on you turn right along the narrow via Litomarino, a long straight road which cuts the Venetian countryside longitudinally – where you can often see birds which are common in the lagoon – and which finishes at **km 114.2** with a wide bend to the left. You immediately pass under the link road, continue along the main road, and at **km 115.6**, just before entering Dese, turn sharp left passing by the mediaeval **Dese Tower**, with battlements at the top, which was originally built around the IX century as a lookout tower and must have been part of a defence system of those territories near Venice.

Continue, leaving Dese cemetery to your right

– at **km 115.9** – then follow the winding via Ca' Colombara, with very little traffic, which leads into the cultivated fields and some areas used for plain tree woods, pedalling close to the **Querini-Ottolenghi Woods** and the **Za-her Woods**.

This nice road will lead you, at **km 119.1** to join up with the B road that crosses Favaro Veneto, near Mestre: here you turn right and



Mestre, San Giuliano Park

immediately left at **km 119.2** along via Ca' Solaro. Continue straight on until **km 120.5** and at the roundabout take the first on the right which leads to an underpass, then at the next roundabout take the second on the right, open to residents, continuing until **km 122.3**, to enter via Vallon turning left.

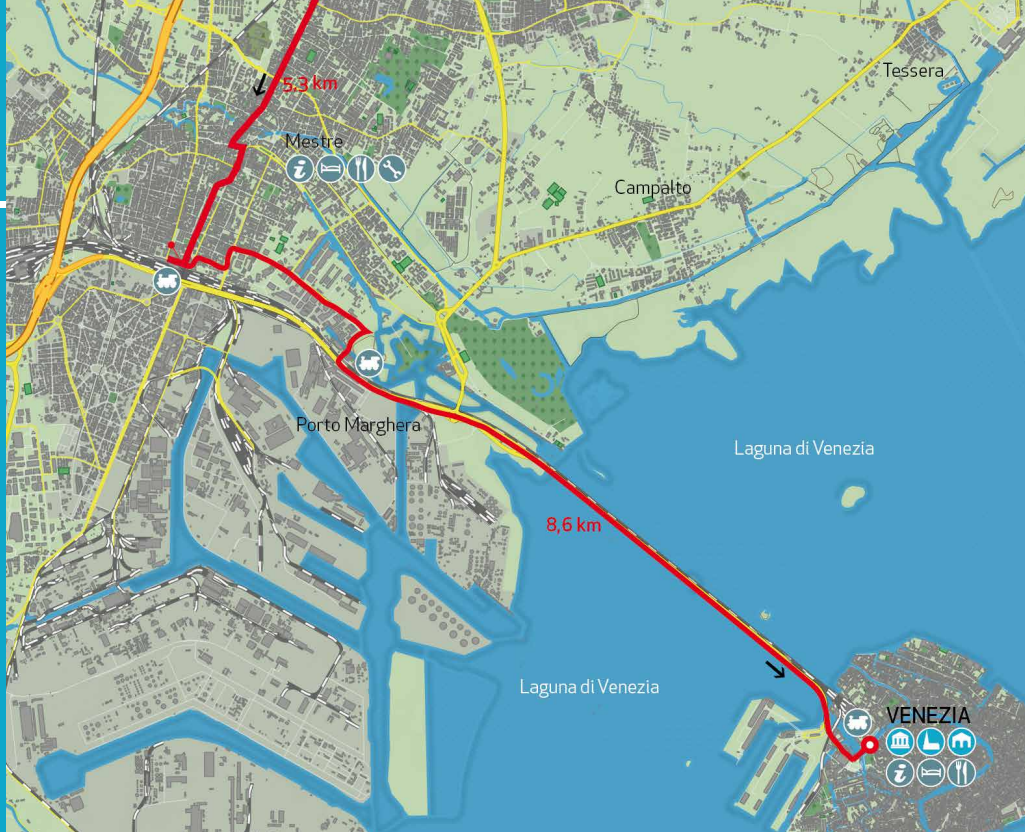
Now the road runs next to the fine **Carpenedo Fort** – one of the nineteenth century fortifications that was part of the entrenched camp of Mestre, this rose to defend the mainland and the Venetian lagoon – then at **km 123.5**, still on a cycling path, there is another underpass, at the end of this at **km 123.8**, leave via Vallon turning right into via Benelli.

There is a barrier for cars and motorcycles at **km 124.3** and you continue straight on until you reach the main square in Carpenedo at **km 124.6**, where there is the nineteenth century church of **Saints Gervasio and Protasio**.

Mestre

The itinerary goes through the city of Mestre, commercial and industrial center, as well as an important railway junction. Special attractions are the central Piazza Ferretto with the medieval tower, the only remains of the ancient city walls, and the large San Giuliano Park which offers a beautiful view of the lagoon and of the city of Venice.





Now you take the tree-lined viale Garibaldi, in a cycling lane, which leads into the heart of Mestre at **km 125.7**, in front of the town hall in via Palazzo.

Go straight along via Palazzo and cross **piazza Ferretto** (a pedestrian area, bicycles are not allowed), and turn left at **km 126.2** towards via Poerio. Taking the first on the right, via Brenta Vecchia, you arrive, at **km 126.5**, in via

138



Venice, the Bridge of Sighs

Cappuccina; after 150 metres turn right into via Dante and pedalling straight on, along a cycling path, you reach Mestre railway station at **km 127.6**.

Here you can park your bike in the big Bici Park and in 10 minutes by train, you reach the lagoon city. If you want to arrive at the lagoon by bike, follow the directions for Venice on a quite busy road, passing by the Porto Marghera railway station at **km 129.7**, then at **km 132.0** you reach the bridge across the lagoon, where there is a two-way cycling path which is being completed. At **km 136.2**, you arrive in piazzale Roma, the car terminal of the splendid city of Venice. You have reached the end of your journey.

Venice: the city in the lagoon

The legendary canals with their famous gondolas and evocative historical buildings make Venice unique. Among the numerous attractions we point out the **Rialto Bridge**, **St. Mark's square** with the basilica, the **church of Our Lady of Health**, the **Fondaco dei Turchi**, the **Doges' Palace**, the **Libreria Sansoviniana**, **Ca' d'Oro** [Golden house]. Its position on the sea, its islands and the beautiful buildings have earned Venice and its lagoon a place in the Unesco Heritage site list.

The Venetian lagoon: a masterpiece of light and water

The Venetian lagoon is a very delicate eco-system of more than five-hundred square kilometres that includes islands, small islands and sand banks with an intricate network of canals: this is also part of the Unesco Heritage. We advise you to make a stop at Lido, where the famous Film Festival takes place, another stop at Murano, the island of glass, then the picturesque fishermen's island, Burano; Torcello, San Lazzaro degli Armeni and San Francesco del Deserto are also fascinating.



INFO

Vittorio Veneto

Tourist information: viale della Vittoria 110,
tel. + 39.0438.57243, www.visittreviso.it,
iatvittorioveneto@provincia.treviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of me-
chanics.

Conegliano

Tourist information: via XX settembre 132,
tel.+ 39.0438.21230, www.visittreviso.it,
iatconegliano@provincia.treviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of me-
chanics.

Susegana

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Nervesa della Battaglia

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Giavera del Montello

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of me-
chanics.

Volpago del Montello

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of me-
chanics.

Villorba

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Ponzano Veneto

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of me-
chanics.

Treviso

Tourist information: via Fiumicelli 30,
tel. +39.0422.547632, www.visittreviso.it,
iattreviso@provincia.treviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of me-
chanics.

Silea

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Casier

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it

Possibility of food and lodging.

Casale sul Sile

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it

Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Quarto d'Altino

Tourist information:

www.comune.quartodaltino.ve.it

Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Venezia

Tourist information: www.turismovenezia.it

Possibility of food and lodging.

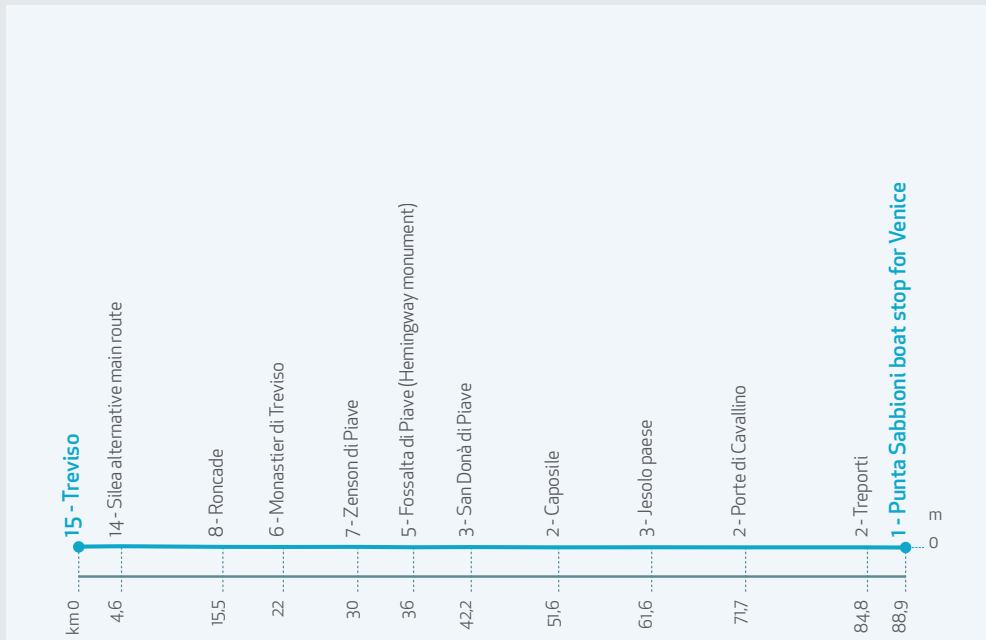
The use of cycles is forbidden in the historical centre.

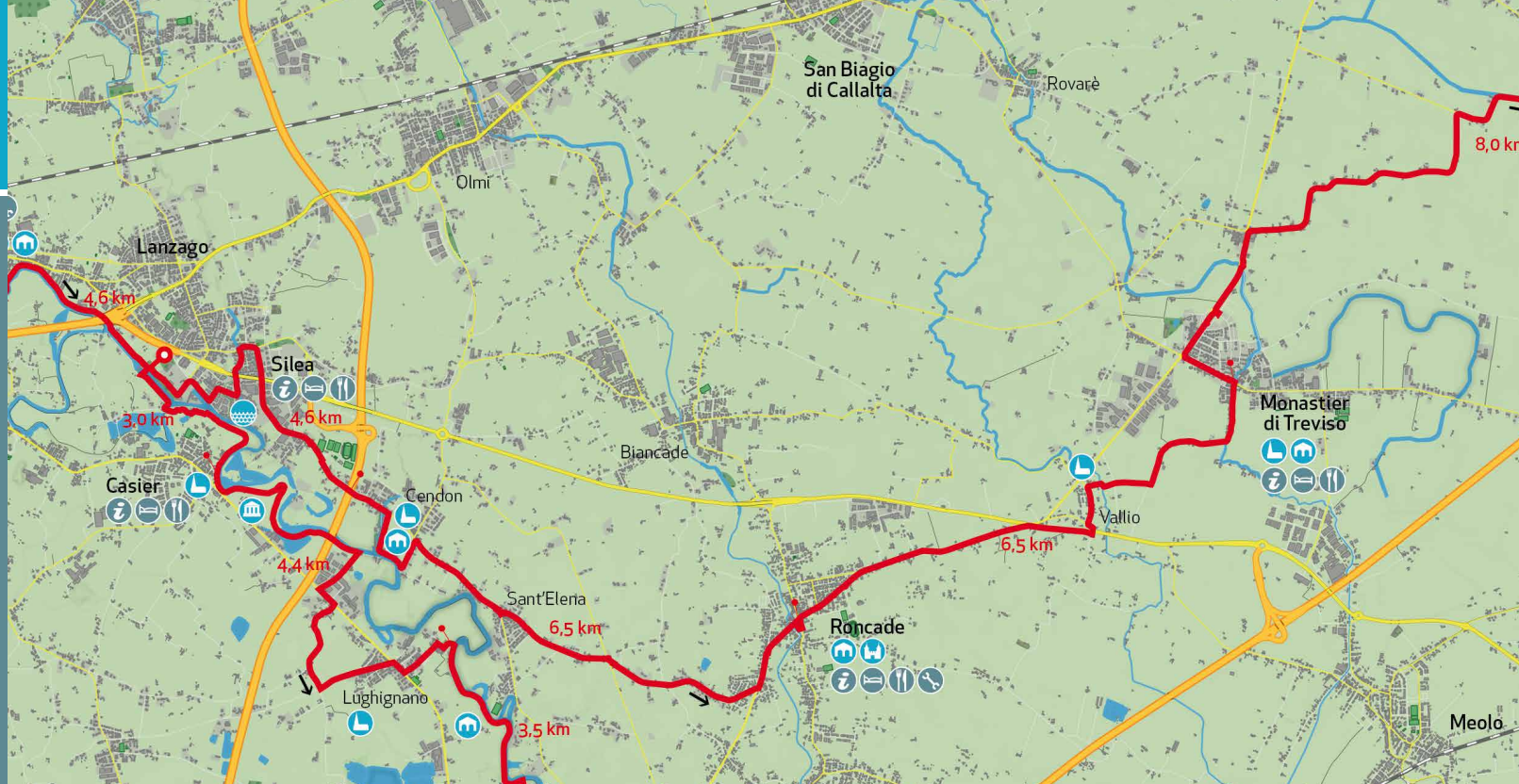


Treviso-Punta Sabbioni- Venice

alternative route - 88.9 km

Entering the historical centre of Treviso from Porta San Tomaso, continue along the numerous cycling paths crossing the main city streets. When you have crossed the large plaza, Borgo Mazzini, longitudinally, at **km 0.3** turn right into the narrow, cobblestoned via Sant'Agostino, then when you arrive in front of the eighteenth century **church of St. Augustine**, turn left and at **km 0.5** - in via San Leonardo - keep to the right and after 100 metres turn left to reach piazza Santa Maria dei Battuti. Here you turn right into via Sant'Agata, which you follow until you arrive at **km 1.0** on the banks of the river Sile, in riviera Garibaldi, at **Ponte Dante**, exactly





where it meets with the Cagnan canal, with a monument to the great poet which indicates this exact place with the verse “where Sile and Cagnan meet” in the IX canto of his *Paradise*.

Continuing along the Sile, which you keep to your right, you go into the wide *viale Torquato Tasso* to then leave it at **km 1.4** (it bends to the left), to continue straight on into the nar-



Treviso, Piazza dei Signori

row via *Alsazia*, which is asphalted, where there is the beautiful route signed up as the so-called “restére” of the Sile, that is the tow-path where the oxen pulled against the current – with the help of strong ropes called “reste” – the boats which transported goods, the “burci”.

Just after, at **km 1.6**, you pass under the railway bridge (“Ponte della Gobba” [Humped Bridge] and you pedal along plunged into nature, among weeping willows, ducks, swans benches on the river banks, wooden landing stages looking onto the placid waters of the river. You come across a stretch of light gravel of about 500 metres, then the path becomes asphalted again and at **km 3.0** you reach Porto di Fiera, with a few houses which were once the simple homes of boatmen and millers. Here you can see the **church of St. Ambrose** and some beautiful Venetian vil-

las, among which **Villa Ninni Carrisi** with its wonderful park. Continue along the enchanting route on the left bank, at **km 4.4** you pass under two viaducts of the bypass near the town of Silea and at **km 4.6** a small, narrow, cement bridge appears: you are now at an important fork in the route.

Go straight on without crossing the bridge, there is the detour which leads towards Ron-



Radicchio di Treviso, a gastronomic delicacy

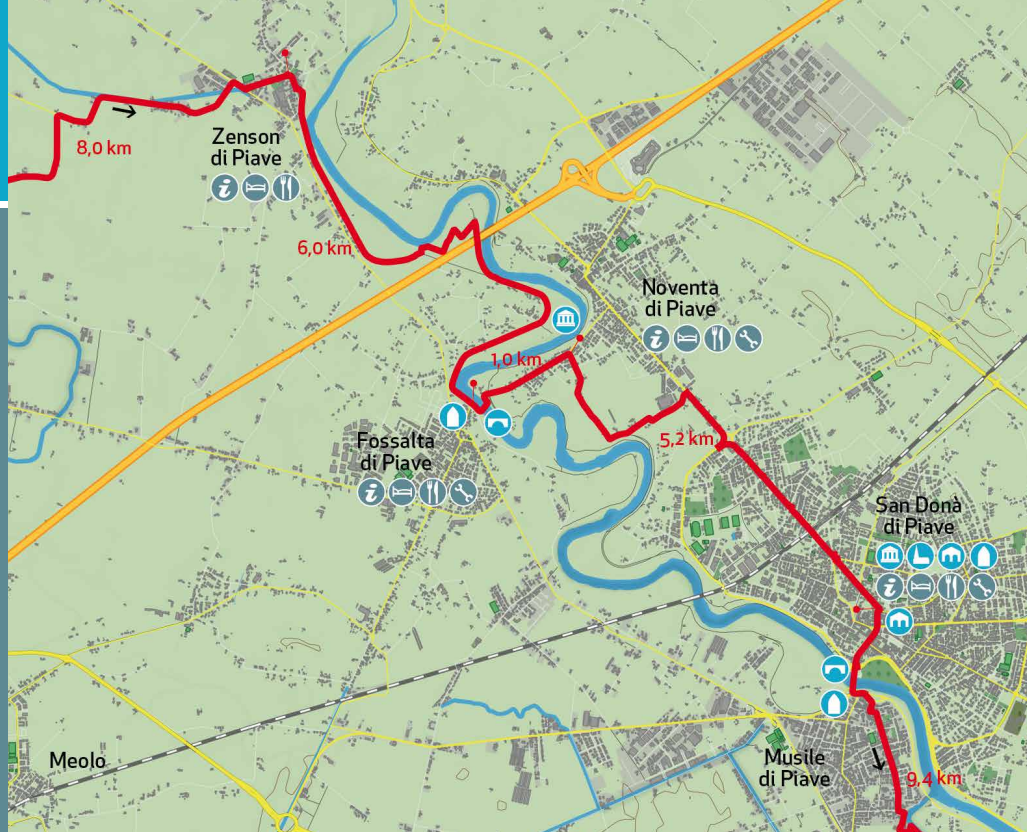
cade, Monastier, Zenson di Piave, Fossalta di Piave, Noventa di Piave, San Donà di Piave, Caposile, Jesolo, Cavallino, Punta Sabbioni, while going right you follow the main itinerary which leads towards Quarto d'Altino, Mestre, Venice (description on pp. 132-141). Continuing on the left bank of the Sile, at **km 5.2** you pass in front of the Silea power station and you go straight on; at **km 5.8**, at the fork you go to the right, then at **km 6.6** you pass under the primary road Treviso-Mare and continue along a secondary road. Then at **km 6.9** turn right along via Roma, then at **km 7.1** – in front of the beautiful little church in Silea – still keep to the right and at **km 7.4** you pass under the Treviso-Mare again. Carry straight on until at **km 9.0** you pass over the motorway and then at **km 9.5** turn right into via Chiesa and you pass in front of the **parish church** of Cendon di Silea, which

overlooks the Sile. At the eighteenth century **Villa Fanio Cervellini** turn left into via Capitello and at **km 10.5** you return to the B road turning right, then at **km 11.2** – near the town of Sant'Elena – at a fork you go to the left along via Pozzetto which at **km 14.1** leads through the village of Franceniga di Silea. After joining the B road 64 at **km 14.7** – head towards Roncade, which you reach at



Roncade, Villa Giustinian

km 15.5. Roncade is a nice town known for its wine production, you are now in the area of the Piave wines, and it is crossed by the Musestre river. Here there is the magnificent **Villa Giustinian, Roncade castle**, with its fortified towers and walls, a particular structure with a complicated history: Otto II gave it to the powerful Collalto family, it was demolished by Cangrande della Scala and then rebuilt as a villa at the beginning of the sixteenth century by the noble Venetian family Giustiniani, inspired by the previous castle structure, with its large square enclosure, closed by a high wall with turrets, surrounded by a moat. It is the first example of Venetian villa in Classical style, what would later be expressed by Andrea Palladio. From the centre of Roncade, where there is the roundabout next to the castle, continue along the B road 64 towards Monastier-San Donà



di Piave on a sort of cycling pavement which then becomes a good separate and protected cycling path, until at **km 18.4** you ride next to the busy primary road Treviso-Mare, still using a separate cycling path. You continue safely until **km 19.1** when you turn left passing under the road and then take the first road on the right, via San Nicolò; now go straight on until you reach a stop sign at **km 19.6** and you turn sharp right, you pass in front of the Vallio **parish church** and shortly after there is a cycling bridge over the Vallio river. Continue along a good rough path and at **km 20.3** go to the left along the asphalted via Brusoni, which leads pleasantly to the centre of Monastier, which you reach at **km 22.0**. Monastier owes its name to the **Holy Mary of Pero Benedictine monastery**, founded in 958 by Otto I, the future Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. The church bell-tower and some ru-

ins of the monastery are still visible, incorporated into a Venetian villa.

At Monastier you can follow the signs for the “**I luoghi di Hemingway** [Hemingway’s places]” itinerary, a cycling-tour route with code TV4; in fact, the writer, who was a young auxiliary in the American Red Cross during the First World War, received his first treatment here after being wounded on the Piave river,



Monastier

in the hospital set up in the building which later housed the primary school.

Turn left along the B road 61, then at the first roundabout, at **km 22.6**, turn right onto the separate cycling lane and at San Pietro Novello, turn right at the roundabout, at **km 24.2** on the B road 60 towards Zenson di Piave, along a nice winding path that corresponds to the Piave Wine Road. At **km 29.3**, on the B road 57, at the Zenson cemetery, turning right and then immediately left you arrive, at **km 30.0**, in front of the Zenson di Piave town hall. The town is remembered above all for the bitter fighting that took place after the retreat at Caporetto along the nearby bends of the Piave.

Here you take the first road on the left and after 100 metres you pedal along the long rough bank of the Piave river, you will follow this for some time. Continue along the

rough road, at **km 33.4** you pass under the motorway and at **km 33.9** the path becomes asphalted once again, still alongside the river bends: you are in the territory of Fossalta di Piave, along a cycling-pedestrian route where the “**Hemingway’s war**” eco-museum has been developed (www.laguerradihemingway.it) which leads into the places where the great writer was injured in July 1918 during



Fossalta di Piave, the bridge made out of boats

the Great War. It is an interesting journey structured in nineteen different stations, each one offering further information, textual, iconographic and audio (downloaded with QR code).

At **km 36.0** you reach the exact place where there is a **memorial stone** to the fact that the American writer was injured here – near the **Baptistery of the Fallen** – and after 100



Fossalta di Piave, the Baptistery of the Fallen

metres you cross the picturesque toll bridge made out of boats (free for pedestrians and bicycles...). Continuing straight on, without crossing the bridge and making the route just a little longer, you can visit an attractive flood plain area covering about 10 hectares used as a riverside park, with important examples of fauna and flora typical of riversides and one of the best from a natural point of view (Gonfo bend).

Return to where you were and cross the bridge, carry straight on along the cycling path towards Noventa di Piave, until **km 37.0** where you turn right into via Redentore and then left into via Berlese which you follow until you join, at **km 39.2**, the busy B road 83, turning right again towards San Donà di Piave.

Continue straight on (at **km 40.0** turning right you come to a picnic area with a supermarket too), then at **km 41.1** pass under the

Fossalta di Piave: on Ernest Hemingway's path

Fossalta di Piave is on the right bank of the Piave river, 30 km north of Venice. It has become famous because during the First World War the young Ernest Hemingway was injured there: he wrote about this experience in his famous novel *Farewell to Arms*.

A monument has been erected in his honour on the bank of the Piave quoting Hemingway – “I am a boy from the lower Piave” – completed with an audio-guided cycle-foot route in the places where he was a protagonist.

railway and at **km 42.2**, in the town centre, turn right into the pedestrian area San Trentin, preceded by a historical residence: **Villa De Faveri**.

Then you arrive in front of the **Cathedral** where a crucifix is kept in a display case in the pronaos, this was found in the ruins of the holy building after it was destroyed during the Great War; continuing along corso



San Donà di Piave, Reclamation Museum

Trentin you reach piazza Indipendenza, with the Monument to the Gold Medal Holder Giannino Ancillotto, an aviator from San Donà during the Great War. Two historical buildings look onto the square, the **Town Hall** (1923) and the **Land Reclamation Authority**; the latter is dedicated to the role of transformation carried out by the Lower Piave territory: in 1922 San Donà di Piave was the seat of a nationally important conference about land reclamation.

The **Reclamation Museum** is very interesting (www.museobonifica.sandonadipiave.net), it tells the thousand-year-old history of the town and the numerous transformations the territory has undergone and it is divided into five sections: archaeology, ethnography, war, nature, reclamation. However, the greater part of the museum is dedicated to the particular history of the reclamation

Noventa di Piave: a narrow green strip of land in the province of Venice

Noventa di Piave is about 50 km from Venice, on the banks of the Piave river which is 220 km long, the river starts in the Alps at Sappada (BL), at the foot of Mount Peralba and it flows into the Upper Adriatic in Jesolo (VE). Whoever visits Noventa di Piave appreciates above all the area that is crossed by the river, transformed into a river park, one of the most evocative green surfaces in the Veneto region with its landscape which is unique in Italy, its much loved green oasis, with particular flora and fauna.



works in the Eastern Veneto area, started at the end of the nineteenth century and completed mid-twentieth century, completely changing the environment and economy of the Lower Piave, transforming it from an unhealthy marshy area into a luxuriant, blooming countryside.

Pedalling along corso Silvio Trentin at **km 42.9** you reach the famous Victory bridge,



Musile di Piave, Monument to the Bersagliere Soldier

which connects San Donà to Musile di Piave; riding along the cycling path on the right side of the bridge itself, go into the underpass and you come out where there is the bronze statue of the **Monument to the Bersagliere soldier**, a reproduction of the statue at Porta Pia in Rome. Notice that the base is formed by a bunker from the Second World War. The Musile di Piave territory is the result of many important hydraulic reclamations carried out since the times of the Republic of Venice and at the same time it was the theatre of many bloody battles during the Great War, a memory which cannot be separated from this land.

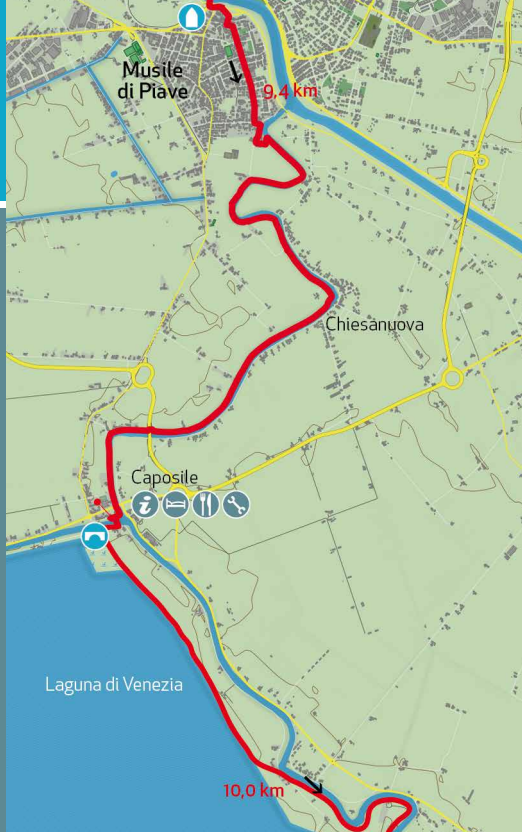
Turn left at the statue, at **km 43.1** and after 200 metres you leave the bank and go down to the right, going through the town of Musile di Piave, along via XXIX aprile, until reaching, at **km 44.6**, via Intestadura, near

San Donà di Piave: the river park and the Sculpture in Architecture Park

San Donà di Piave is a delightful and busy town on the banks of the Piave, the river that is sacred to the country.

The town has various green areas and public parks, among which the big “**river park**” – in the Piave flood plain – and the **Sculpture in Architecture Park** – well known on an international level by art and architecture experts – a green area where there a lot of installations and sculptures by internationally famous artists and architects (Aldo Rossi, Bruno Munari, Toni Follina, Sol LeWitt...).

The park is an architectural masterpiece, open to everyone.



the **Conca dell'Intestadura** in Musile which at the end of the XIX century made the old course of the Piave vecchia navigable, its bed had previously been diverted by the Serenisima to avoid the formation of rubble carried by the river into the Venetian lagoon.

Leave the main road at **km 44.8**, turning left and the narrow road soon becomes rough, you pedal along the ancient "restera dei burci" in the green countryside, alongside the winding bends of the river. It is one of the most spectacular stretches of the river, which offers wonderful natural beauty.

Pay attention to the rough road until you reach Castaldia at **km 50.7**, near Caposile di Musile di Piave, where on the right, just 50 metres from the path, you find the interesting Territorial Laboratory of Environmental Education "La Piave Vecchia", which carries out a lot of interesting activities regarding

nature education (tel. +39 0421 65060, www.ilpendolino.it/castaldia.html) for all the surrounding areas.

Shortly after – at **km 51.6** – you pass in front of the characteristic and historical bridge, the Salsi bridge, this is also a toll bridge (but not for bikes...) at the point where the waters of the Piave Vecchia meet with the Taglio del Sile. Cross the bridge and turn right and then

151



Caposile, the bridge made out of boats

left after 200 metres, along a new rough cycling path which runs next to the lagoon offering fantastic panoramas. At **km 54.9** turn left until you arrive, at **km 55.1**, at via Salsi which is asphalted. Turn to the right and then left after 50 metres, going up the right bank of the Sile, here there is another new cycling path, a dirt path, which leads, at **km 58.7**, in front of the ruins of the **Caligo Tower**, the



Jesolo, Caligo Tower

old Venetian customs house. Now, continue along the asphalted via Dragojesolo and the nice winding road passes under the primary road at **km 61.6**, near Jesolo Paese.

Continue pedalling along via Sant'Antonio going round the modern structure of the Town Hall: you are now on the right bank of the Sile, following the course of the Sile. At **Km 63.4** you enter via Parco della Rimembranza and shortly after, at **km 63.6**, turn left into via Cristo Re which continues following the Sile; the nice road – very panoramic and not busy – becomes a good dirt road around **km 65.8**, leading to the enchanted panoramas at **km 71.7**, at the historic **Porte di Cavallino**, old locks built by the Serenissima to stop the Sile from flowing into the lagoon.

Crossing the locks with a series of metallic paths (lead your bike by hand), you arrive along the Casson Canal, which you keep to

your right, and you ride along the bank until reaching **km 74.1** in the centre of Cavallino – part of the town of Cavallino-Treporti – turning immediately left along via del Finanziere; after 100 metres turn left onto a cycling path with red brick surface to reach via Equilia at **km 74.4**, where you keep to the left.

Just after, you arrive in via Fausta, the main road of the coast, still on a separate cycling



Cavallino, pedalling alongside the lagoon



path; proceed until **km 74.9** – just before a petrol station – where you turn right and pedalling along via Alberti Giovanni Matteo you arrive in via Pordelio, at **km 75.6**. The territory of Cavallino is formed by a strip of land, the Litorale del Cavallino, which separates the lagoon to the north of Venice from the Adriatic Sea; historically an agricultural and fruit and vegetable area, in the last decades it has developed its tourist activities which has placed it among the most popular places in the Adriatic with a high number of visitors, especially tourists from northern Europe.

Turning left, after 50 metres take the first road on the right, a rough path that runs alongside the lagoon with breath-taking views, as it looks onto the canals, lagoon and *barene* [sandbanks] (areas periodically submerged by the tides and which have charac-

teristic vegetation and are full of avifauna). Continue along the dirt road (you could have continued along the asphalted via Pordelio which does not, however, offer the same panoramic view over the lagoon and specifically over Valle Falconera), until at **km 77.6** you join via Pordelio again – which runs alongside the Pordelio canal – a very panoramic road with mixed traffic. At **km 78.9** you



Cavallino beach

are near Ca' Ballarin and instead of going straight along via Pordelio, turn left into via della Fonte which at **km 79.8** takes you next to via Fausta, the main artery of the coast; now turn right along the good protected cycling path with a lot of maritime pine trees, until you arrive at Treporti at **km 84.4**, at a roundabout turn right into via Trepontina to return to via Pordelio at **km 84.8**, turning left and continuing towards Punta Sabbioni.

If at this point you cross the Saccagnana canal you quickly arrive in the nice village of Treporti, which is very close to the magnificent island of Burano, they are connected by a ferry.

Continue alongside the water leaving to your left a stretch of orchards which are typical of this coast (especially artichokes which are much sought after but also tomatoes and fruit), and continue along a sort of pavement

cycling path. At **km 86.0**, the road turns to the left, but continue straight on along the cobblestoned cycle-footpath, Lungomare San Felice, then at **km 86.9** you join the main road again passing, at **km 87.3**, near the well-equipped Marina di Lio Grande, a large tourist dock in the lagoon. Continue straight on until you arrive, at **km 88.9** at Punta Sabbioni, another well-known place for its tour-



From Punta Sabbioni to Venice by boat



ist-beach activities and famous for its campsites, among which there is one of the largest in Italy and Europe.

You have arrived at your destination, at the extreme south of the Cavallino coast, exactly in front of Venice, it is connected with a boat service (ACTV number 14) which takes you to St. Mark's Square in about 30 minutes. Be careful as bicycles are transported according to the number of passengers and possibly in limited numbers, at the captain's discretion. However, we recommend, also to have more freedom of movement (remember that in Venice it is absolutely forbidden to ride bikes), leaving your bike at Punta Sabbioni and going to Venice without it.

INFO

Silea

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Roncade

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Monastier

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Zenson di Piave

Tourist information: www.visittreviso.it
Possibility of food and lodging.

Fossalta di Piave

Tourist information:
www.comunefossaltadipiave.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Noventa di Piave

Tourist information: tel. +39.0421.65212,
www.comunenorentadipiave.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

San Donà di Piave

Tourist information: U.R.P. Comune di San Donà di Piave, tel. +39.0421.590735, 800.267867, www.sandonadipiave.net, info@sandonadipiave.net.
An info point should be opening in piazza Indipendenza where it will be possible to find information about the territory and the avail-

able services. Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Musile di Piave

Tourist information: Biblioteca Comunale, +39.0421.592220, +39.0421.592236, www.comune.musile.ve.it, biblioteca@comune.musile.ve.it
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Caposile di Musile di Piave

Tourist information: see Musile di Piave.
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Jesolo

Tourist information: piazza Brescia 13, tel. 041.5298711, info@turismovenezia.it

Possibility of food and lodging, presence of mechanics.

Cavallino

Tourist information: via Fausta 406 a, tel. +39.041.8626322, www.cavallino.info, info@cavallino.info
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.

Treporti

Tourist information: see Cavallino
Possibility of food and lodging.

Punta Sabbioni

Tourist information: piazzale Punta Sabbioni 2, tel. +39.041.966010, info@cavallino.info
Possibility of food and lodging, presence of a mechanic.



